

Dec. 1900



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## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE:
THE TELL EL AMARNA TABLETS, Prof. J. Clizbe . . . . .	21
SOCIETY COMPETITION, Harry E. Reed, '01 . . . . .	24
THE BELLE AND THE BELL, J. Wirt Dunning, '04 . . . . .	26
TO ALMA, (poem) C. Wesley Sidebotham, '01 . . . . .	28
THE PASSING OF THE CENTURY, (poem) E. W. Waldron,	29
EDITORIALS . . . . .	30
ATHLETICS . . . . .	32
'00 FOOT BALL TEAM . . . . .	34
CLASS NEWS . . . . .	38
ALUMNI . . . . .	43
SOCIETIES . . . . .	43

# ALMANIAN.

Vol. 2

DECEMBER, 1900

No. 2

## The Tell el Amarna Tablets.

JAY CLIZBE.

**I**N 1887 a peasant woman in Egypt accidentally discovered a series of clay tablets of great historical and antiquarian value. There were 320 of them in all, though many of them were only fragments. They were covered with the cuneiform or wedge shaped writing. They average about nine inches in length by half that size in width. The largest contains 98 lines, the smallest 10 lines. They were written about 1500 years before Christ, that is, from 100 to 200 years before Moses. They are a record of letters written by the rulers of Egypt to the rulers of Babylon, Assyria, &c., and to Egyptian officials stationed in Palestine and surrounding countries, and the answers to the same.

Of course these letters cannot fail to be of interest to every student of the Old Testament. It is not many years since eminent scholars claimed that the Pentateuch could not have been written by Moses, because the art of writing was not known in Moses' day. But these tablets prove beyond all

question that the art of writing was well known long before Moses time.

Our earliest historical records point to the valley of the Euphrates and the valley of the Nile as the two great centres of civilization in ancient times. Egypt and Babylonia were the two foci, so to speak, of the ancient world. Everything centered about them. They were 1,200 or 1,500 miles apart by any practicable road, but from the earliest times there seems to have been continual intercourse between them. Caravans of camels were constantly passing out of Egypt bearing its treasures to the East. They crossed the desert, passed up the west coast of Palestine, crossed to Damascus, thence northward to the Euphrates at Carchemish and thence down that great river to Babylon. By the same route the products of the Euphrates valley were brought back to Egypt. In the wars which occurred the armies went back and forth by the same great highway; and sometimes a splendid cavalcade passed the one way or the other, bearing some princess with her servants

and train of court ladies, to cement the friendship between the two empires by a royal marriage.

The interest attached to these tablets arises from their great antiquity rather than from anything which the letters themselves contain. They generally relate to matters of little interest to us. But indirectly and unconsciously, so to speak, they tell us much. To have a clear light cast upon the world as it was 100 years before Moses, though it be but a momentary gleam, cannot fail to be of the greatest importance. Private letters as well as official correspondence have always been regarded of the greatest value to the historian because they furnish those details which are so necessary to a clear picture.

In the old Babylonian and Assyrian times, paper being unknown, and papyrus apparently not having yet been brought into general use, correspondence was carried on by means of clay tablets which were written upon with a stylus and the clay presumably burned afterwards, so that it became as hard and durable as brick. The characters used were the cuneiform or wedge shaped characters which have, within the present century, been so fully deciphered by Grotefend, Rawlinson and others.

These letters relate to a period of Egyptian history covered by the reigns of Amenophis III. and his son and successor, Amenophis IV. The latter monarch was known as "the heretic king" because he undertook to entirely subvert the old religion of Egypt, and to introduce a new cult in its place. The attempt proved a complete failure. But in trying to carry out his scheme, he deemed it necessary to remove his

capitol from Thebes, which was the sacred city of the old religion, to a site half way between it and Memphis, near to the modern village of Amarna. Of course the archives of the government were brought here, and here they are found after 3000 years of undisturbed repose.

Of these letters eleven constitute a correspondence between Amenophis III, the father of the heretic king, and the king of Babylon, whose daughter Amenophis desires to marry. In this collection there are also some letters from the kings of Assyria. That historic empire was just rising to a position of rivalry with Babylonia, and was now making strenuous efforts to secure the friendship of Egypt. There are also letters from the country of Mitani, a region including the Padan Aram of Genesis, where Abraham halted on his way to Canaan. This, the beautiful and beloved queen of Amenophis IV. came from this region apparently, and a scarab inscription tells how another wife came to him from Padan Aram, the daughter of a king, with 317 ladies in her train.

The most interesting letters, however, are those from the viceroys of the Egyptian kings stationed in Syria and Palestine. The heretic king of Egypt had been giving his attention so exclusively to his religious reforms that he had neglected the defense and protection of his possessions to the north and east. Northern Syria, indeed, had been almost wholly lost. The Hittites whose powerful empire was just rising into importance, were pressing southward from Asia Minor. Town after town was falling into their hands. There were other enemies also, and the appeals of the vice-

roys to their suzerain for help are pitiful. These appeals come from Tyre, Beyrut, Accho, Hazor, Gezer, Askalon and Jerusalem.

The burden of these letters is, "We are hard pressed by the foe. We need immediate succor, or the land will be lost to Egypt. Much is lost already. We cannot hold out much longer. Let the king send relief." But the king did not send relief, and the Asiatic possessions of Egypt were soon surrendered to the Hittites and other enemies. Indeed, civil war was soon to break out in Egypt in consequence of the king's foolhardy policy, and he had more than he could manage at home.

The following is the style in which the deputies of the king of Egypt write to their master for help, "To the king, my lord. Abd Asrat, the servant of the king. At the feet of my lord, the king, I fall; seven times at the feet of my lord the king, and seven times with breast and back. May my lord the king learn that my enemies are strong against me, and may my lord the king send a powerful man, (with an army), to protect me.

It is well to remember that while these letters were being written, the Israelites were in Egypt, though the "hard bondage" spoken of in Exodus had not yet begun. Abraham had visited Egypt, Jacob and Joseph had both died there, but Moses had not yet appeared. The way was being prepared for Israel to enter and possess Canaan by the gradual loosening of the hold of Egypt upon the country, and its breaking up into a number of independent and disconnected tribes.

Both Prof. McCurdy and Prof. Sayce in speaking of the Tell el Amarna let-

ters, call our attention to the widespread influence of Babylonia in the vast region from the Persian Gulf to the confines of Egypt as revealed in these newly found documents. It is certainly a surprising thing that the viceroys of Egypt should write to their master, not in the Egyptian language, but in that of far-off Babylonia, and that the king should reply in the same,—that they should both use the difficult and complicated wedge writing, and that the king of Mitani should use the same. Prof. Sayce says that the discoveries recently made have quite revolutionized our conception of the oriental world in the century before the Exodus. Excavations recently made have brought to light fragments of the dictionaries used in the Egyptian Foreign office, and Babylonian stories which served as reading lessons for Egyptian or Canaanitish students. The Babylonian language seems to have been the recognized medium of literary intercourse. Prof. Sayce says that "Canaan, the high road between east and west was the centre of this literary intercourse, and the majority of the writers of the (Amarna) letters were of Canaanitish descent. Schools and libraries must have existed all over the land. Not only was the system of writing of foreign origin, the language of the correspondence was foreign also. Moreover, the system of writing was one of the most complicated possible, demanding a good memory, and years of study."

From all this we must conclude that the Canaanites whom the Hebrews overcame, and whose country they took possession of, must have been a much more cultivated and civilized people than were the Hebrews themselves, and if they had been united they might have made a far more effectual resistance to Joshua than they did.

# Society Competition.

HARRY E. REED, '01.

**I**N modern times we hear much about rivalry and competition. We are told that life consists of a continual struggle for supremacy, in one line or another, over our fellow men. Whether it be in the class room or in the trades, he who is the most skillful in meeting competition is considered the most successful. To this end the child at play strives to surpass his fellows. Later in life this same spirit develops the college athlete, the debater and the valedictorian. On turning to the common walks of life, we see men steadily rising by continued triumphs over rivals, to positions of honor and trust. The higher one mounts, the more brilliant his success, the greater is his love of competition. It becomes a part of his very nature; yes a second nature. As we advance in life we learn to expect it at every turn. If, on meeting it we are successful, we court and embrace it with a fond love. To us there is no greater pleasure than that of success.

Competition is one of the chief pleasures of student life. Here it is sought for the sake of pleasure to an extent unknown to any other class or condition of society. It begins early in the course. Rivalry between freshmen and sophomore students is traditional. Later we find the same spirit existing between societies. In both cases when exercised within reason-

able limits, it should be cultivated. Even if it were possible, it would be unwise to attempt to lay down iron-clad rules binding these reasonable limits of competition. There are certain conditions however, which must not be over-looked.

In college the great object of competition should be to stimulate to greater activity and nobler attainments. So long as the student is compelled to fathom his abilities and thoroughly know himself, and so long as he is compelled to exercise his most sterling qualities, competition should abide. As the ultimate end is character building, the moment one is tempted to stoop to questionable means, competition should be destroyed. This is the danger sign. From here on the path is beset with snares and pitfalls. This danger is pre-eminently serious between societies, especially when the college is small. In a college that is numerically weak, one society is sufficient. Trouble begins with the organization of another. Here, competition should not be between societies, but between the individual students to rank high in their classes and to make themselves desirable men for the societies. This will develop a higher grade of students to be admitted to membership. And it necessarily follows that the standard of work in the society will be better than when the members are devising plans to



thwart the growth of their opponents. As the college grows the number of societies should increase. Great care should be taken, however, that this increase is not made out of proportion to the growth of the college. The moment a new society appears, competition assumes new and dangerous aspects.

In the study of competition and its effects on the individual a few things should be noted which will be equally applicable to society life. If the end sought is a worthy one, it is commendable that a person should undertake an enterprise with a stern determination to succeed or perish in the attempt. It is better, however, to fail in the use of honest means than to succeed in the use of questionable ones. Although it is well to have an unfaltering determination to succeed it is far better to be determined to succeed only by fair means. He who succeeds only by true merit rather than by craft has attained a twofold end. He has reached the goal of his ambition and he has kept his character untarnished. Craft is not to be unexceptionally condemned simply because it is craft. When put to a judicious use it is allowable and often quite beneficial. The danger lies; not in craft itself, but in the desire and attempt to deceive. When genuine worth is lacking in rival literary societies the temptation to resort to artifice is often overwhelming. Soon the primary object of the society is lost. The members plunge into a race for

greater numerical strength rather than a race for higher literary excellence. The temptation is as great here as anywhere else to resort to methods which will bring about the desired result most quickly. Great license is given in efforts to influence men, first, not to join the other society, then after they have joined to leave it. Malicious attacks are made upon the rival society as a whole. Farther, the personal motives and character of the individual members are ruthlessly trailed in the mire. The pleasures sought and honors to be gained in competition are blasted. Rivalry becomes a disgrace to the students, to the society and to the college. It is no longer an aid in character building. It is an enemy with the guise of friendship undermining the very foundation of character.

Truly, this is a dismal picture. But as competition exerts a powerful influence for good in the growth of character so it may exert an influence equally bad. No sane person will entertain for a moment any thought of doing away with competition simply because it may lead to ruin. Rather, this is an argument in its favor. It merely emphasizes the fact that in all competition eternal vigilance must be kept. Under proper conditions, carefully guarded, competition between the societies will not lead to envies, hatreds, and personal feuds but to a higher ideal of life. Then the graduate will leave the college halls better equipped to fill his place in the world.

# The Belle and the Bell.

J. WIRT DUNNING, '04.

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College professors are oftentimes indiscreet. It is not strange then that Winton Harding, a recent graduate with highest honors from Berlin University, and with the letters Ph. D. written on his sheepskin, should fall in love with Hildred Sedly, a senior in Kensington College, of Kensington on-the-Hudson, whither he had been called to the chair of Greek literature and mythology.

Now, there are some things that are not written in the pages of that mass of notes, which by the trunkful make up the education of the professor, who has received his training on the continent. Among them is this, that in the course of a four year's acquaintance between a half-back and an exceedingly pretty girl, more than a brotherly affection is wont to develop. Thus it was with Richard Crane, the hero of many a football battle, and the beautiful Hildred. As the year advanced the affection of Prof. Harding advanced in proportion. Prof. Harding at times noticed a close companionship between the two, but he delved too deeply in classic secrets to observe the progress of modern ones. When he had nothing else to do Prof. Harding was something of a philosopher. He believed in the affinity of opposites. He himself was tall and dignified, homely and learned, while Hildred was beautiful and not possessing an unwarranted love of books. Not one of his requests had been refused by her even

if they came at the expense of the popular half-back; and that the two had been engaged for more than a year never entered the professor's busy brain. Early in the spring, Prof. Harding, having gained the utmost popularity with the students, was considered by the college gods a most desirable man as chairman of the "Committee on Conduct," and there his troubles began.

In Kensington College, according to the higher powers there could be no such thing as a secret society; but Kensington was like all colleges of today, in that it possessed certain organizations for the promotion of nocturnal escapades. The first thing enjoined upon Prof. Harding was to see that no such organization lived, and he set about to find and destroy every semblance of "fraternism." Like all explorers Prof. Harding was surprised at the undiscovered countries, just beyond the range of his former horizon. The Delta Mi Kappa, Richard Crane, president, was to be his first victim.

In Kensington, tradition said that the clapper of the college bell should disappear every year, and new students were filled with awe at the stories of hairbreadth escapes from the ever watchful Conduct Committee, in former years; while rumor said that beneath the college building concealed in a barrel, clappers of every age and kind were to be found. It happened

on the 29th of May. The professor had learned where the meetings of the Deltas were held, and upon overhearing a chance remark of one of the members that a meeting was to be held that noon, he excused his last class of the forenoon at the second gong, (a thing hitherto unheard of at Kensington) and secreted himself in a small room, next to the one where the expected meeting was to be held.

Soon a dozen or more fellows crept stealthily into the room. The professor from behind a convenient keyhole noted their names. Strange that Richard Crane was not among them. A whispered consultation was held around a table, and then as the party was about to leave, and the professor's hopes were falling; a big fellow, whom the professor recognized as Burton, the center, said, "fellows, all be there; Crane is agreed and to-night under our charge the belle of Kensington college will depart forever!" With three cheers in honor of the event, the meeting dispersed. "Well, that is news," mused the professor. "They are to take the bell this time. They expect to have it melted into watch charms and club room ornaments. We'll see."

That night Prof. Harding in company with two senior members of the faculty climbed the lofty tower of the college and there awaited their prey. Ten o'clock and still the marauders did not appear. Prof. Harding went below to make inspections. No one was in sight. After a short reconoitre he was returning and as he rounded a corner, he came face to face with Hildred Sedly. She passed on without a word and the professor seated himself and began to ponder over his love for the girl he has just met and

to accuse himself for not offering to escort her to the dormitory close by, whither she appeared to be bound.

After a time he rejoined his companions in the belfrey. Shortly a whistle announced a passing train. It was the eleven o'clock express for New York fifty miles distant. The quartette waited till twelve o'clock, and as no signs of activity appeared below, it was decided to give it up for that night. Prof. Harding returned to his room, threw himself down upon his couch, and was soon asleep.

That night he had a dream. Again did the fair Perserphone pluck the still fairer blossoms in her mother's garden, again did the earth tremble and quake, again did the fiery chariot of Pluto (who this time was clad in the garb of a professor) spring forth from the earth, again did the cries of the rapined maid rend the air, but all in vain. On! On! the foaming chargers upon the road that leads to dismal Styx. The chariot with its precious burden was just nearing the bounds of the lower world; and the barkings of the triple-headed Cerberus could be heard in the distance, when the tall athletic figure of a football player clad in full uniform and having on his back the letters "R. H.," leaped forth from out the darkness at the horses heads and felled them to the earth. In the din that followed the pseudo Pluto lost all reason, and noticing that both maid and man had disappeared, he made a mad dash for the lower regions, and, entering the dark shades of Tartarus, he, not being recognized, was seized by the mighty Cerberus about the throat, and was about to suffocate, when he awoke.

The folding couch on which he had been reclining, as a result of his exertions, had shut up like a jack-knife. His head protruded from one side and his feet from the other. His cries soon brought his landlord, who released the professor from his perilous position, and expressed greatest surprise at finding him at the ghostly hour of 3 a. m. "clothed and not in his right mind."

The next morning over a rather late breakfast the professor read under glaring headlines the following paragraph from a New York daily:

"A very unique wedding occurred at the parlors of the Waldorf-Astoria last night at an hour which, in the day-time would be called high noon. The parties had eloped from Kensington College and were accompanied by twelve of the groom's fraternity, the Delta Mi Kappa, who acted as escort to the bride, who has been one of the

charming belles in Kensington society. Inquiry developed the truth that the groom is none other than Richard Crane, the famous half-back, whose brilliant run of seventy yards won the game from Harvard here last fall. Mr. Crane will be city editor of a leading western daily. It is expected that the faculty will let the matter drop."

Prof. Harding was dumbfounded. He now saw a world of meaning in that parting statement of Burton, "Tonight the belle of Kensington College departs forever." His hopes were shattered, but rather late he had learned that half-backs and pretty girls are the *summum imperium* of college life, and that the traditions of any college regarding the college bell may be outlived in the course of time.

At faculty meeting the next week the committee on conduct reported "Progress."



## TO ALMA.

WESLEY SIDEBOTHAM.

Alma, the source of our youthful ambition,  
Alma, the shrine of our love and our joy;  
Forever thy name is engraved on each heart,  
Proudly we hail thee as queen of the state.

Born in the wildwood, thou'st made it a garden;  
Few are thy years, but far reaching thy fame;  
Once thy foes scorned thee, but now they  
revere thee;  
All bow before thee, thou queen of the state.

Alma, thy course is still upward and onward,  
Strong in our armour of truth and of right;  
Girdled with honor no foe can withstand  
thee;

Alma, we love thee, thou queen of the state.

# THE PASSING OF THE CENTURY.

E. W. WALDRON, '04.

1900.

Athwart the brazen, sunlit gate  
A shadow falls, and with sedate  
And solemn step, a bent old man  
Comes up the leaf-strewn way and knocks.  
The chill winds brush his sunken cheek  
And with their icy fingers seek  
To fling out like a plummy fan  
The loose strands in his withered locks.

A moment, till the door obeys  
The tapping of his slender staff,  
The aged traveler turns his gaze  
To face the fiends, whose mocking laugh  
Is on his ears,—and mirrored in  
His glassy glowing eyes I see  
A kinetoscopic pageantry  
Of human frailty and sin.

The tinsel splendor of the years,  
Their strife and passion, blood and tears,  
And all the fetid fiendish lust  
And battle-din and graying dust  
Of ten diversified decades  
In motley winding cavalcades  
Are pictured there—

The phantom fades,  
Till in his wan dim eyes I see  
No spark to light their ebony.

Forth to the dismal endless night,  
Whose gleam repels a ray of light,  
The footsteps of the old man pass—  
And on them clangs the gate of brass

1901.

Afar I hear a happy song  
That floats in liquid notes along  
A perfumed zephyr of the air—  
And up the path that winds to meet  
The leaf-strewn way before the gate,  
A young man comes with step elate,  
Whose star-kissed eyes and sun-kissed hair  
Are fresh as morning and as sweet.

Lo! as he lifts his limpid eyes  
To drink the nectar of the spring,  
Aglow with beauties uncovering  
The beauties of the blue warm skies,  
Reflected in their azure deeps,  
Where necromantic mystery sleeps,  
I see the promise and the sum  
Of all the hundred years to come;  
Their hopes and prayers and happiness,  
Their castled dreams of blind success  
In one great splendid vision shine,  
Illumined by a light divine.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The old has gone; the new is here,  
The shrilling of the chancleer  
Proclaims from mountain-peak to sea  
The advent of the century!

# ALMANIAN.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN

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DECEMBER, 1900.

The hearts of the alumni and of the student body have been gladdened more than once during the year 1900 by announcements of gifts, which will greatly increase the efficiency of the college. But no gift has evoked more hearty sentiments of appreciation than

did the announcement which President Bruske made at the Wright House banquet given in honor of Alma's championship football team upon its return from Albion. President Bruske on that occasion made public the information that the much longed for athletic field is now an assured thing. The means are in sight and the grounds are soon to be selected, and it is hoped that the field with enclosed track, diamond and gridiron will be ready to be dedicated on the occasion of the alumni football game next fall. An athletic field has been a crying need for some years, and this announcement has done still more to endear to his friends of the college, our generous townsman who has always been so munificent in providing for our needs.

At the present time no agency is more effective in raising a college in the estimation of people generally than success in athletics. The public holds that in that institution where the spirit and manhood are of the quality which wins on the field of sport, will also be found the highest standards of scholarship. An opportunity has just been presented Alma to demonstrate that there is a good foundation for this belief. We have already reached the topmost round of the football ladder, and have proven that our muscles are of the highest quality, and now a chance is given to show the kind of stuff our brains are made of. Albion has challenged us to a joint debate and although negotiations are still pending, there is little doubt but that satisfactory arrangements will be made for holding the event at Albion some time during next semester.

That such a contest will be a source of great good to us no one can well doubt. It will not only do much to bring about that era of good feeling and more intimate relationships with our sister institutions which we have so long desired, but it will also give an impetus to our literary endeavors such as they have never experienced before. Let us enter into this undertaking with all our energies. That same pluck, spirit and unity of action, which has brought Alma fame on the gridiron, can, and will, if rightly directed, bring her equal honor on the floor of debate.



Almost every town of importance nowadays can boast of at least a second rate lecture course in the winter time. In a college town the course is necessarily of a better character as the supply must always be in accordance with the demand. In years past Alma has not been behind other towns in Michigan in this respect. Last year through the munificence of the college patrons, the students and citizens of the town had the privilege of listening to some of the most prominent men in the state. Although there were

some failures to appear as scheduled on the program the patronage was good.

After the hard work of college life recreation is very necessary and recreation of this kind is especially desired by the student mind. But this year almost nothing has occurred to break the monotony of boning and grinding unless we except the class functions which are enjoyed only by the select few. Alma College has proven her equality with the other state institutions in other ways and why should she be behind in this almost necessary respect? But even if no kind friend offers his assistance this year let us not be content to be deprived of this good. The student body can have what it wants if it only wants it bad enough. It is to be earnestly hoped that the desire of Alma's youth's and maidens will be sufficiently strong to accomplish their ends, and that a 1900-1901 lecture course will soon be a reality.

NOTE:—Since going to press we have been informed that the liberality of Mr. Arthur Hill, of Saginaw, has provided a lecture course for next semester, including some of the most noted men in the country. EDITOR.



## CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL.

Success in football is too often measured by the number of Karnes won. This is a very crude view to take of this important branch of college athletics. No college can always win. Yale holds the first place this year, but she has not always done so, nor will she continue to. The great thing is to learn to accept defeat in a graceful and sportsmanlike manner. Moreover the purpose of football is not merely to win games or championships, or even to "advertise the college." It may do all of these but they are not the essentials; they are only the incidentals. The game of football is played and will continue to be played because it affords pure and wholesome enjoyment, and contributes to the development of body, mind and character. It cultivates, as



22, the week of the opening of college. The high school boys, while physically unable to stand the buffeting of their heavier opponents, played a fast and plucky game, and gave the college team as hard practice as they wanted at this time of the season. The score was 54 to 0 in favor of the College.

The next week Sept. 29, the Ferris Institute team met Alma on the home grounds. The visitors had been in training since Sept. 3, and a hard game was expected. But, while they had good individual players, they lacked the ability to work together and of course one man could not advance the ball against eleven. Alma scored 41 points, and Ferris Institute 0.

The trip to Oberlin the week following was greatly enjoyed by all the men. The team was shown every possible courtesy by Mr. Jones, the Oberlin Manager, and Mr. Fauver, Alma's old coach and now head coach for Oberlin, demonstrated his ability to entertain in a grandly royal manner. The day of the contest was hot; the mercury was hovering about 90; and the perspiration fairly flowed from the men. Alma showed better physical condition and was not affected by



the heat. But the game had not progressed far before it was evident that the teams were quite evenly matched. Oberlin fumbled more and this gave

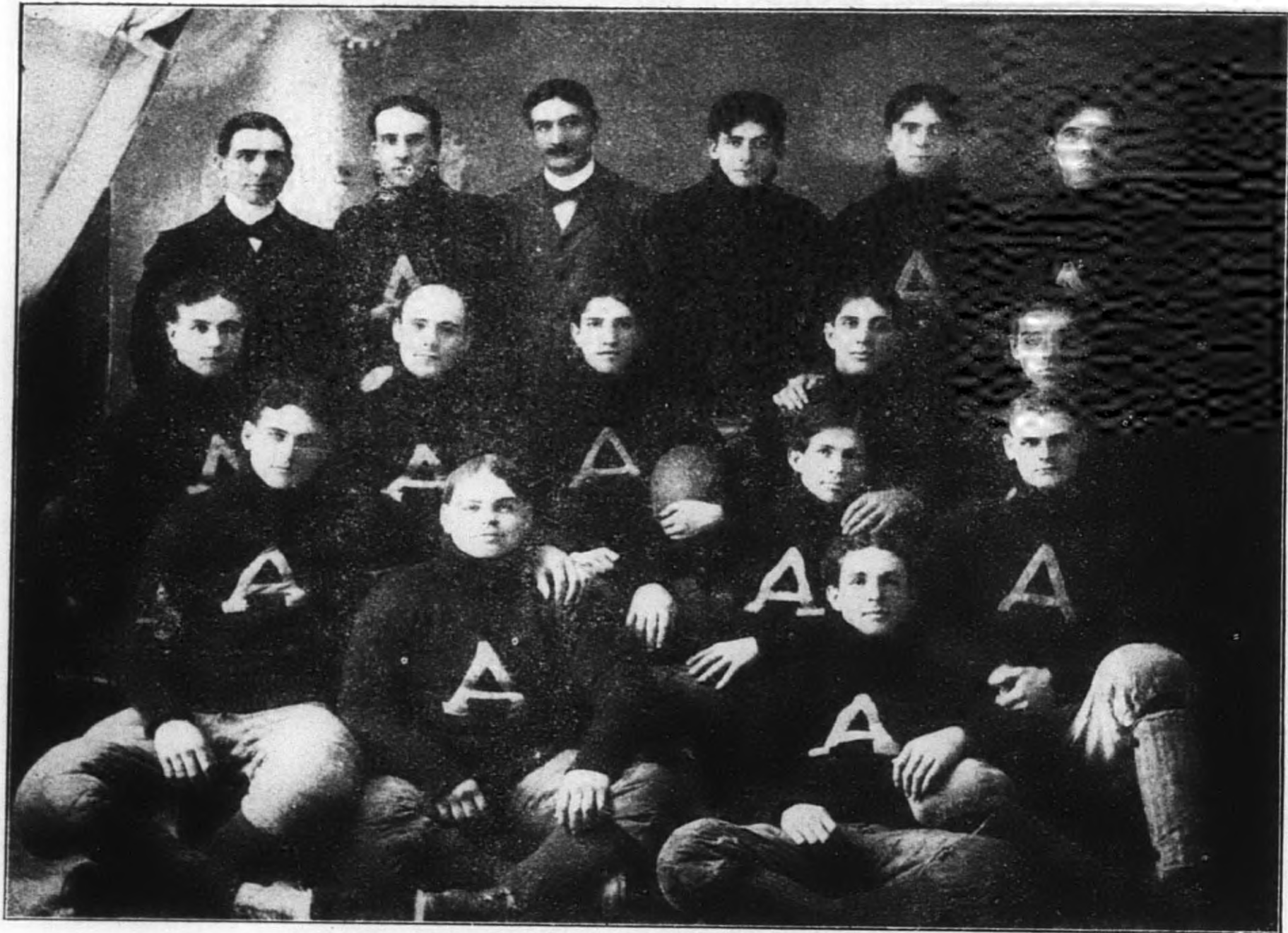
Alma an advantage and enabled her to keep the ball in Oberlin's territory most of the time. When neither team seemed likely to be able to score, Oberlin fooled the Alma men on one of their own old tricks and ran seventy yards for a touchdown. Alma then



secured the ball on a fumble on Oberlin's 35 yard line and by a series of short gains carried it over the goal line. Neither side was able to score in the second half though Oberlin's goal was twice in danger. Once they held Alma for downs on the five yard line and again blocked a place kick on the ten. The game ended with the score 6 to 5 in Oberlin's favor.

On Oct. 13, Alma made her debut before the Detroit public in a rather unsatisfactory game with the D. A. C. eleven, unsatisfactory for the reason that the D. A. C. team took out so much time. Their men were not in good football form and in the second half especially time was called at almost every down. When the game ended the score was Alma 5, D. A. C. 0.

Four games had been played and Alma had not yet met a Michigan college. Albion on the other hand had been playing havoc among the southern colleges, winning three consecutive games by large scores. On Oct. 20 her eleven, the most formidable looking aggregation of players



V

ever seen in Alma, met the College on the home grounds. The day was ideal, and a large crowd assembled expecting to see a game which would decide the state championship. But they were destined to disappointment. The teams retired from the field with even honors twelve points to the credit of each.

Oct. 27 Alma was scheduled to meet her old favorites at M. A. C.



The farmers were not so fortunate as in former years. The game was about what you would expect at M. A. C.

The element of chance in football certainly was in evidence, especially true in the first game with Olivet, in which the visitors scored twice when the ball was in Alma's possession, securing it once on a blocked kick and again by a clever steal from the right halfback, making the score 11 to 6 in favor of Olivet.

But, since the chief object of football is not merely to win games but rather the development of those qualities of mind and heart already referred to, what seems a defeat may be a real triumph. This was certainly the result of the Olivet game. Never did a contest have a more salutary effect on a team.

In subsequent practice there was a vigor, a snap and a disposition to back up the runner such as had not been seen before, and which told powerfully in future games. The Lansing City team, a heavy aggregation composed of old college stars, had not yet been scored against, and were claiming the championship of Michigan, not even excepting the U. of M. Alma met them on their own grounds November 17. Other things being equal Lansing would have won by her superior weight; but Alma, by mass plays utilizing all the men, was able to get more weight against a given point than the opponents, and thus won the game, as every one admitted, on their merits. Lansing scored on a 100 yard run, making the score 11 in favor of Alma.

Practice during the next week was more than satisfactory and the team which Coach Allen took to Olivet Nov. 24 was the best he had yet exhibited. Most courteous treatment was accorded by President Sperry and members of his faculty. Olivet's star men were all in the line-up. Alma had lost Reuben Brown, but the family's reputation was well maintained by his brother. Both teams were confident of victory and both played good football. Had it not been for a weak spot in Olivet's line the contest would not have been so one sided. The ball was in Alma's possession most of the time but Olivet stubbornly disputed every inch of ground and her men deserve high praise for the vigor with which they played to the very last a losing game. Three times did they hold Alma for down, between the five and ten yard lines and thus kept the score down to 6 to 0.

All interest now centered in the Thanksgiving game with Albion. Allen had his men in prime condition and only signal practice was resorted to preparatory to the big game. The result is too fresh in the minds of all to need any comment here. From the outset it was evident that the game was Alma's. What impressed one most was the graceful and sportsman-like manner with which Coach Brewer's men accepted defeat. Alma will be pleased to meet them again.



During the season 186 points were scored by Alma as against 35 by her opponents. The points were

divided as follows:

Alma 54	Alma H. S.	0
Alma 41	Ferris Institute	0
Alma 5	Oberlin	6
Alma 5	D. A. C.	0
Alma 12	Albion	12
Alma 23	M. A. C.	0
Alma 6	Olivet	11
Alma 11	Lansing City	6
Alma 6	Olivet	0
Alma 23	Albion	0
Total 186;	Opponents	35

**THE FOOTBALL SEASON OF 1900.**

C. W. ALLEN.

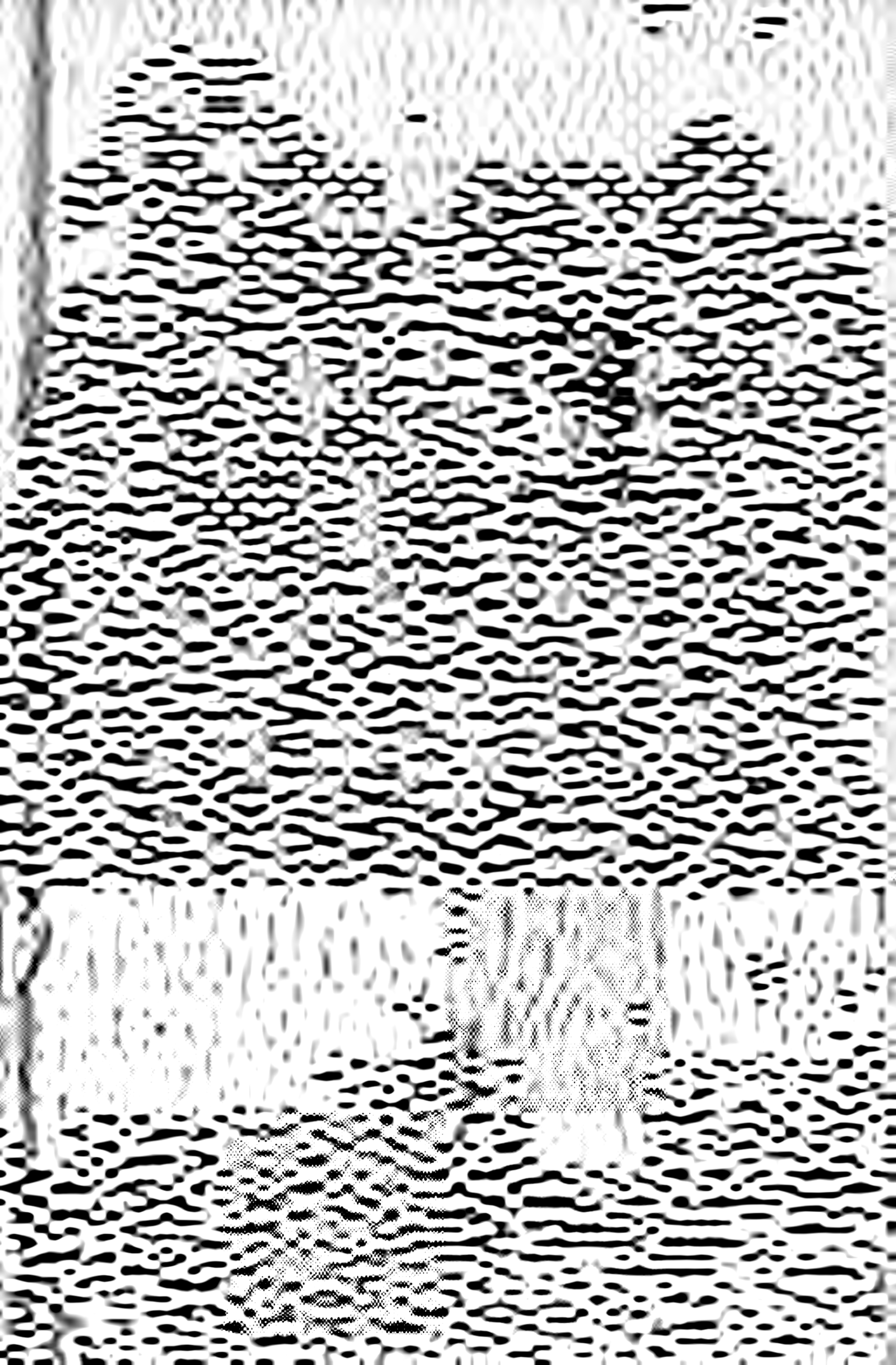


The season just closed shows a marked increase of interest in the game not only in schools and colleges but among the general public. And, as interest in, and knowledge of the game spreads there is less heard about danger, brutality and the other objections that have so often been raised

against football. One marked feature of the game this season has been that very few accidents have happened to players on the leading teams. That means that when the game is played as it should be, and the men are properly trained, the element of danger in it is very slight. Almost without exception the serious accidents chronicled during the season have happened to players who have gone into a game without training. It requires a careful preparation by means of abstemious living and hard work to safely play football. That is why we value the game. It has come to mean something to play in a college team. So much, indeed, that the danger is never considered by the players.

There are some things to be learned from the playing of the leading teams. The Harvard-Pennsylvania game showed that the "quarter-back" plays are not to be feared by a weak team will start quickly. Against a strong team this play has always looked imposing but it has been too often now and always found wanting where the opposing teams were properly matched. Pennsylvania has lost for three successive years now by persisting in sticking to that style of play. Let us hope we have seen the last of it.

The Yale-Harvard game showed what "spirit" will do. For two years Yale had been losing but they had not lost courage. The splendid record of the team this year was the result of the determined spirit that has so often characterized Yale teams. They played a game without tricks or frills of any kind but simply by dash and teamwork swept everything before them.



# Class News.

## SENIORS.

Prof. M. in psychology—"Miss B., when you hear a whistle, what do you think of?" Miss B.—"The boy."

Lost—The point in Christian evidences. The finder will please return to Henry Peter Bush, our pedagogical phenomenon, who wishes to offer it as a Christmas present to one whom he thinks will appreciate the gift.

The seniors have sent away the order for their caps and gowns, and will soon make a public appearance in the outward symbol of their innate dignity. For some time we have noticed that the lower classmen have been dazzled by the intellectual lustre of the seniors, and we have had misgivings that their eyesight might be impaired by the bright glare they experience on the approach of a senior. When we have shaded our brilliancy in the dark sombre hue of our caps and gowns we think that the lower classmen may dare approach without the fear of being struck by blindness. We have fought against it as long as possible, but have been compelled by the logic of the situation to hide our lights under our caps and gowns in order that lower classmen and faculty may not be compelled to bear the searching sight of the senior suns and stars which shine in the intellectual firmament of Alma College.

The seniors were somewhat scattered during the Thanksgiving vacation. Miss Carl spent the day at her home in Wyandotte, Miss Chisholm went to St. Johns with Miss Hope, while Robinson, Eastman and Sidebotham were at Albion representing the class in the football game which won for Alma the intercollegiate championship.



## JUNIORS.

Bradfield says that he did not attend the pickaninny show this year.

Mr. Long has found that one of the easiest and most delightful ways to gain 25c is spend 70c. Ask Bagley to explain the paradox.

A junior coquette is an ardent admirer of red and thereby hangs a tale—but I dare not tell it here. Suffice it to say that no man knoweth yet which is the elect, he of the maroon sweater, or he of the auburn locks.

The juniors lost one of their most valued members when Reuben Brown left college. Mr. Brown always was an honor to his class whether in the class room or on the gridiron, and now that he has gone out into the world we know that he will reflect honor on his class and college.

Articles of impeachment are being formulated against one of the fairest members of our class. A system of

telegraphic communication has been established at the Dorm breakfast table between a junior and a senior (three kicks on one end of the table)—“Hello, Junior.” “Hello, Senior.”



### SOPHOMORES.

We regret exceedingly that the football game that was planned to take place between the freshmen and sophomores could not have occurred for we think the score would have been a surprise—to the freshmen.

The sophomore class spent a most delightful evening at the home of Miss Hooper, a short time ago. It was the first class function of the year and everything was done to make the occasion one that will long be remembered. It is said that our friends, the freshmen, rallied their forces and planned to make a raid upon us, but their courage must have deserted them at the last moment for the class enjoyed the evening in peace to the very close, made their adiens and returned home with no sign of interference from the doughty freshmen.

In sophomore Bible class:

Prof. Clizbe—“Miss Wheeler, do you think that Satan approaches men’s hearts directly?”

Miss Wheeler (very decidedly)—“Why, yes, I think he does in the case of some men.”

The freshmen had a fine time at the reception at the hall two weeks ago. Some of the gentlemen present were called on for speeches and when our lofty friend, Mr. Wilcox, in one of those bursts of eloquence to which he frequently gives expression was as-

suring his comrades that no one could possibly get ahead of the freshmen, the coats and hats of some of these wily freshmen were disappearing from the rack in the hall—we wonder who were the offenders?

A sophomore girl who lives in the dormitory, one night not long ago had a rather exciting adventure long after the retiring bell had rung. It was thought to be important enough to celebrate in song and so we give here the verses composed to commemorate the event:

A sumptuous feast was held one night  
On the dormitory’s third floor;  
A dozen girls arranged themselves  
On chair and bed and floor

Six girls upon the bed did sit—  
The bed was old and worn,  
They laughed and chatted, ate and laughed,  
Till the “we sma’ hours a’ morn’”

There were olives, sandwiches, and ice,  
Fit for the Sallian priests;  
Cake, oranges, and Mossic wine,  
Like the ancient Grecian feasts.

But when the guests had gone away,  
“Soph” and “K. G.” in bed,  
Felt a frightful sinking of support  
Beneath both foot and head.

“What’s that?” the Froebelite did cry,  
“’Tis a queer and dreadful shake;”  
“Oh, nothing,” said the “Soph” so calm,  
“’Tis but a small earthquake.”

The bed in fragments they took away,  
A new one put in in its place;  
That’s why a certain sophomore girl  
Wears such a smiling face.



### FRESHMEN.

Misses Mahoney and Strange entertained the class at Ladies’ Hall Saturday, Dec. 8th. A delightful evening was spent in games and other amusements, after which dainty refreshments were served and several toasts were made. During the evening alarming reports were brought in by excited preps and seniors that the

sophomores had gathered in force, and like Catilines band of *improbissimi perditissimi atque insipientes homines* were lying in wait to waylay the belated freshmen as they wandered home. The freshmen in force met on the edge of the campus and after several hearty handshakes on the part of the sophs, a general melee took place, although Wilcox had twenty feet of his oratorical boom knocked off, and Ronald's girl went home alone.

Whatever disgrace we may have suffered in the past is now wiped out in blood. On Friday night the sophs held their spread, but before that there were interesting doings. In the front yard of the Service club the rush took place, and when all the sophomore gore was wiped up, freshies stood supreme. McEwen was penned up in his landlady's storm house, Tinker was pacing the streets under charge of two freshmen, Helmer was lying on the ground, bound hand and foot, and every other soph had a freshman between him and the stars; when time was called by Shiner, who complained of being dizzy. The sophs, after being praised by over-zealous seniors, returned home to rearrange themselves for the spread. Our victory was complete but we do not take great credit to ourselves, for he would be indeed a poor man whom any soph could down.

The average age of the freshman class is nineteen; average size shoe (not counting Wilcox and Dunning) eight, counting Wilcox twelve, average number of soph scalps on the belt of each, two. Other averages such as number of love affairs, consultations with faculty, etc., not determined. Too early in season.

Five freshmen were elected to Zeta Sigma this year, and six to Alpha Theta.

Prof. D. in geology, "Northrup, what do you consider the best solid?" Northrup, "Dorm biscuit."

Prof. C. in Bible, "Miss Conat, what did John say?" Miss C. after several bold attempts gives it up.

At the close of the football season it was hoped a game could be pulled off between sophs and freshies, but as no one could be found who was willing to umpire it was declared off.

Pringle reading in Latin, "And I shall be happy in eternity, if I only have the assurance that you will accompany me there." Miss G.—"What does that mean?" Pringle—"It means if you should happen to go, too, I would be happy."

A sophomore presented a freshman with this law, "Never get nearer your girl than an average of 45 degrees." Shakespeare says, "No law was ever made, but in the mind, of the maker there be some foreknowledge of the crime."



### KINDERGARTENERS.

Miss Donna Hill entertained her brother during the Thanksgiving vacation.

Miss May Mitchell entertained her sister Jennie during the Thanksgiving recess.

One of the sophomore boys joins us and says "Madonna is my favorite picture."

Miss Mabel Saggert entertained Miss Edith Purdy, of Caro, during the Thanksgiving vacation.



Miss Eleanor Hendricks joined the department this month.

Miss Geneva Bower, of Saginaw, was the guest of Miss Merriam during Thanksgiving recess.

One of the freshmen girls when asked what she is going to do at 4:15 invariably answers "I'm going to Read."

One of our senior girls was seen the other day with her head bent toward the walk apparently in search of something. When questioned she answered, "I am hunting for 'Brad('s)."

Mrs. Parish, of Bay City, addressed the Froebel society Dec. 3, on "The Needs of the Twentieth Century Education." She spoke in a very pleasing manner carrying all into her subject with her.

Dr. Clizbe addressed the Froebel society on the subject "Heredity and the Environment as Related to Religion," Nov. 26. This is a subject in which all kindergartners are interested and all listened very attentively.

The faculty and senior kindergartners were very pleasantly entertained by the freshmen kindergartners Nov. 24. The kindergarten room, by skillful and artistic decoration, was made into a most charming reception room. Tea was very daintily served from beneath a large Japanese umbrella in one corner of the room and ices from a pretty table in an opposite corner. Though freshmen in their department they proved themselves past masters in the line of entertainment.

When a young ladies' football team was suggested there was a perfect flood of applications for positions, and

after careful consideration the committee decided upon the following line up, thinking they already had their positions explained by real football men:

L. E.	.....	Miss Iles
L. T.	.....	Miss M. Christie
L. G.	.....	Miss Westcott
C.	.....	Miss Hope
R. G.	.....	Miss Hill
R. T.	.....	Miss Swigart
R. E.	.....	Miss Wheeler
Q. B.	.....	Rosetta of Oberlin
L. H. B.	.....	Miss Sweeney
R. H. B.	.....	Miss Dayton
F. B.	.....	Miss Conat

#### EUGENE AND THE BASKET.

Professor Notestein  
On changing his seat  
Struck the waste-basket  
With one of his feet.

The basket totters,  
But settles back,  
With most of its contents  
Still intact.

Eugene Tinker  
Coming in  
Sees the trouble,  
Begins to grin.

He makes a dash  
To pick up the paper,  
When the slippery floor  
Plays him a caper.

His feet go up,  
'Gene goes down;  
Smile has vanished,  
In its place a frown.

He strikes the basket,  
With both feet;  
Basket emptied  
All complete.

'Gene gets up  
And gets the broom;  
The floor is swept,  
But none too soon.

The class came in,  
Try to find out  
What the fun  
Was all about.

But 'Gene was innocent  
As a pair of goats,  
"I was simply laughing  
At Professor's jokes."

**ACADEMY.**

Miss Brodebeck entertained Miss Peet of Ithaca a few days last week.

Mr. Glass has left college and has taken up the study of telegraphy under the direction of Mr. Winchell.

A number of the girls were pleasantly entertained at an informal fudge-party, given by the Misses Stark, the first of the month.

The geology class was favored the other day with some instructive remarks on the "hot water glaciers" of Yellowstone Park.

A meeting of the fourth year class was held on the eleventh for the purpose of organizing. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. Webber; vice president, Mr. Glass; secretary, Miss Cuvrell; treasurer, Mr. Johnson.

**MUSIC.**

The annual recital of the faculty of the music department was given in the chapel Nov. 20th. The program was as follows:

Senate	.....	Schubert	
	Miss Wagner and Miss Miliken.		
Aria Di tanti palpiti	.....	Rossini	
	Miss St. John		
Hark! Hark! The Lark	.....	Schubert-Liszt	
	Miss Messinger.		
Peer Gynt Suite	.....	Grieg	
	Miss Wagner and Mr. Miliken.		
{ a	By the Manzanares	.....	Jensen
{ b	Alone in the Woods	.....	Brahms
{ c	Maiden's Wish	.....	Chapin
Invitationer (1, 2, 3 and 4)	.....	Rheinbald	
	Miss Messinger.		
{ a	"A Swan Song"	.....	Saint Saens
{ b	Second Mazuska	.....	Meyer-Helmend
	Mr. Miliken		

About two hundred and fifty were present.

The first pupils' recital of the year was given in the chapel Friday evening, Dec. 14.

Two new pupils have entered the piano department, Miss Nunnemaker and Mrs. Hendrick.

Professor Milliken gave an orchestral concert in the opera house, Dec. 11. He was assisted by Mrs. L. A. Sharp, soprano.

**ART.**

One of the students has decided to go to Normandy.

When in need of chocolate drops, call on Miss Booth.

Many young gentlemen have the faculty of "Dunning."

We are glad to announce that Miss Fern Nicholson will join our department after Christmas.

Mr. W. B. Robinson often has a date on (Dayton) for the art room.

Mr. Martin is not the only person who admires Hedges, but then after his twenty-first birthday he will have little more "light" on the subject.

The Christmas gifts being made in our department are many and beautiful. Young gentlemen get a stand in with an art student about Christmas. "A word from the wise is sufficient."

The art department has never been in a more flourishing condition than this year. The students fully appreciate the improvements made in the building during the summer.

## Alumni.

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H. E. Porter, '99 and Geo. A. Hill '00 are attending Lane Theological Seminary at Cincinnati.

We notice that W. E. Culver, a former student, is now Commissioner of Schools in Midland county.

Two of our old students are engaged in newspaper work in Grand Rapids. Paul Bruske is reporting for the Herald while Frank Knox was recently promoted to city editor of the same paper.

Richard H. Sidebotham, '96, a missionary in Korea experienced a taste of true missionary life a few weeks ago. While making a journey from Fusan to Taiku he was attacked by a band of marauding robbers, who took all his possessions from him and divested him of his clothing. He received no permanent injury.

Several of the Alumni have expressed a desire to see the custom of an Alumni foot-ball game inaugurated next fall, and it is possible that a game will be played then. In this connection it will be remembered that Prof. J. E. Mitchell, '93, has by his efficient management given Alma's athletics inestimable assistance.

Several of last year's class are now teaching. Miss Plum is giving excellent satisfaction in the Ithaca schools. Mr. Randalls is teaching in Caro, and Mr. Foote is a professor in a Presbyterian academy at Wichita, Kan. In addition to his genial ways Mr. Foote has exercised a great influence on the boys under his charge by coaching the foot-ball team and in playing the position of quarter-back.

## Societies.

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### ZETA SIGMA.

Since the last issue of the Almanian electric lights have been placed in the new society room.

The society during the past month has added another name to its honorary list. Mr. Reuben Brown has secured a position as assistant chemist at the Mansfield, Mich. mines. While we are very sorry to lose so good a member from our society we rejoice in

his success and bid him God speed in his new work.

Zeta Sigma has taken in this year six new members. Mr. Ewing who enters college this year as a Junior, Mr. Baker of the Sophomore class, and Messrs. McBride, Kellogg, Brown and Winton of the Freshman class. Messrs. McBride and Baker have already had some society experience, having been formerly members of the Adelpic.

The problem which is occupying the greatest part of our attention at present is that of raising the money to furnish the new society room; We hope to make the Zeta Sigma room the most comfortable and most attractive society room in Alma College. But this will cost money and how to raise this money is the question which is perplexing us.

Probably there is no office in a literary society as important as that of critic. Zeta Sigma is exceedingly fortunate at present in this respect. Mr. Brock and Mr. Booth are both men of more than ordinary literary ability and they have proven themselves thoroughly competent. The society has no need to fear that the former high standard will suffer in their hands.

#### ALPHA THETA.

The Alpha Theta society has had some very interesting programs on Shakespeare during the last month, consisting of reviews and criticisms of some of his plays and also papers on different phases of his life and work, which showed considerable thought and a good understanding of Shakespeare and his writings.

The society is growing in power continually and it is only hoped that sometime in the future she may reach the height of her brother society.

"Still waters run deep" is an old saying but even in modern times there is a great deal of truth in it.

#### ADELPHIC.

We were very much pleased to have Prof. J. W. Ewing with us on Nov. 26.

We are in hopes that the new year will see us established in our new room. We are now arranging for lights and furniture.

Our officers are: President, Henry H. Soule; Vice-president, Charles Joslin; Secretary, John G. Schwaderer, Treasurer, Earl Webber; Critics, Sweigart and Johnson.

The Adelphic Society is still in the fight. We still have our faces turned toward the enemy. Although many of our members have fallen by the way, and others have deserted us, although we have all been discouraged and thoughts of retreat have entered our minds, yet we have kept these thoughts to ourselves and have had only words of cheer and encouragement for our comrades. Now the smoke of battle begins to roll away, and we see our enemies vanquished. New recruits are coming to our support and our diminished ranks are rapidly filling. We have no weak soldiers. Every man of us is noble and courageous, and we shall endeavor to prove that we are still, as we ever have been, the equal of any literary society in Alma College.

#### PHILOMATHEAN.

The Philos. were entertained by a talk from Miss Clark one evening.

The society has now a full membership and is ready for hard work.

One of our members since becoming a Philo. has developed absent mindedness, going to the post-office and buying postal cards by the bulk.

#### Y. W. C. A.

Foreign students are looking to us for aid. Are we true to them?

With this issue of the Almanian the calendars will be out. It is hoped they will meet the approval of everyone.

The Young Woman's Christian Association has been defined as the united effort in prayer for the students of the world.

Hudson Taylor in his busy life for men, always made place for this one thing—prayer. Other things will come afterward. Pray first.

The week beginning Nov. 11 was observed by our Association as the world's week of prayer. The meetings were held at noon with a good attendance and interest.

The General Religious Work committee is preparing scrap books to be sent to Miss Barnes, our former State Secretary, for distribution among the children of the poor at Christmas time.

The visit of Miss Mabel Milham to the Association last month has resulted in an increased interest in mission study. Miss Milham is a Secretary of the student Volunteer movement which has sent out during the fourteen years of its existence sixteen hundred volunteers, and has representatives in fifty-three countries.

Two mission study classes have been organized this year. One class is held every Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock and the other on Wednesday at 4:15 o'clock. The text book to be used is Prof. Mott's Evangelization of the World. The classes will be glad to take new members at any time. The Bible Study Class with Dr. Spencer as leader is studying Old Testament Characters. The class numbers eighteen, and any girl who has once enjoyed one of these meetings will not fail to come again.

### Y. M. C. A.

"The Young Men of Alma College for Christ" is our motto.

The Y. M. C. A. of Alma College supplies one of the necessities for a symmetrical development of the whole man. Hence it is hoped that those who do not yet manifest an interest in its workings, may avail themselves of the opportunity which the organization for young men affords.

Bush, Eastman, and Ronald are trying to put into practice some of the suggestions they received at Lake Geneva conference last spring. May Geneva continue to be an inspiration to us throughout the year and may our fellows be willing to make a sacrifice that more delegates may attend the conference to be held next June.

Much praise is due Mr. McBride for the interest he is taking in the promotion of Sunday School in the country. He and his faithful corps of helpers brave the storms frequently that this branch of our Y. M. C. A. work may be kept up to its usual high standard.

Dr. Spencer, our beloved pastor, has the gratitude of every Y. M. C. A. worker for the interest he is manifesting in them. His class in Old Testament characters is proving a source of inspiration to many. He has also proven himself a faithful advisor in the planning of our S. S. work.

A most cordial invitation is extended to all new men to be present at the Sunday afternoon meeting. We need your help and would like to be helpful to you.

Our Y. M. C. A. observed the week of prayer for young men by meeting for prayer every morning from 6:30 to 7:00 o'clock. Although the attendance at these meetings was not large yet they resulted in an increased earnestness on the part of those who attended. This was manifest from the interest shown in the Sunday afternoon meeting following the week of prayer which was one of the most helpful meetings of the year.

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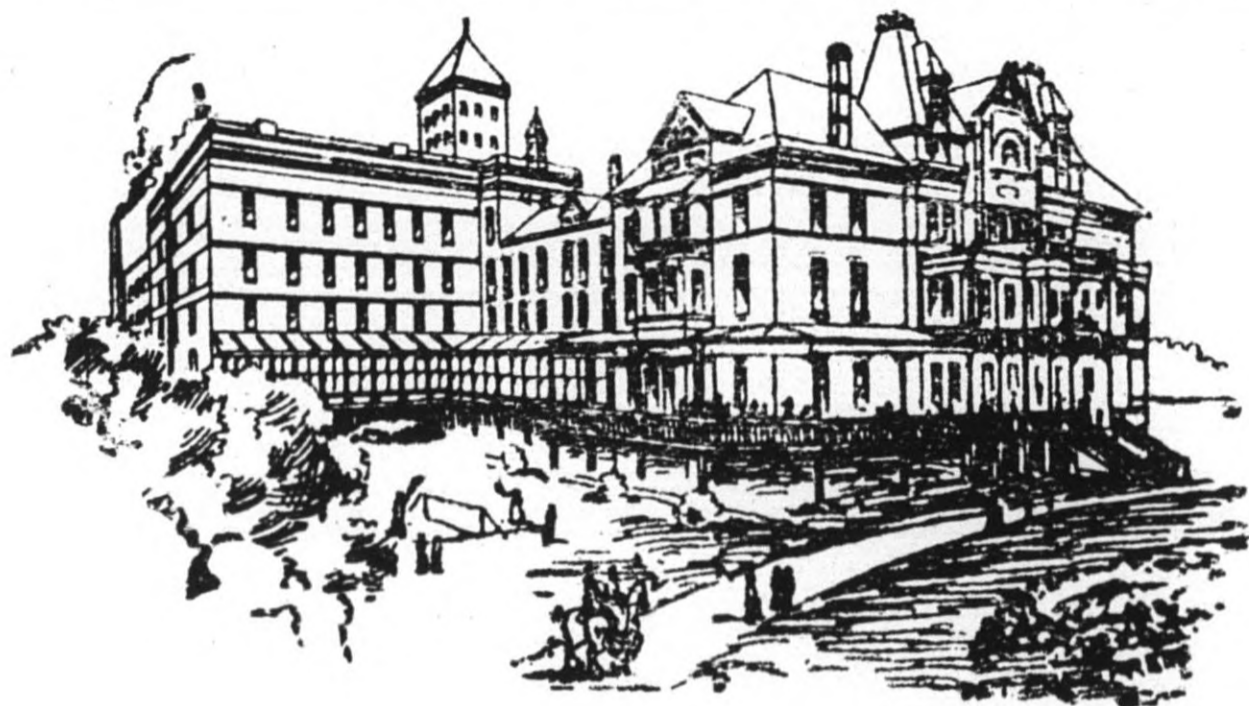
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