

The Student's Scrap-book.

THE WHITE CROSS.

Air, "Old Oaken Bucket."

By Members of Alpha Epsilon Chapter.

How dear to our hearts are the thoughts of our chapter,
 When fond retrospection presents them to view;
 The signs and the passwords, the grips and the laughter,
 And every loved act which our college days knew,
 The dear chapter hall and our Sigma Chi brothers
 The feast and the joys which we never can tell,
 Bring back to our minds many faces of others,
 Who wear the white cross, which we all love so well.

CHORUS—The white cross of friendship, the white cross of honor,
 The glittering cross our fraternity wears.

And when to the girl whom we cherish we lend it,
 To wear at her throat as an emblem of love,
 The feelings of honor and friendship attend it
 Reflecting the charms in her sweet face above.
 For bluer her eyes than the turquoise gleaming
 And redder her lips than the garnet's red glow,
 Yet softer her teeth in that sweet mouth are gleaming
 Than pearls in the beautiful white cross we know.

The Sigma Chi grip we all hail as a treasure
 For often, at times when away from our home,
 We find it the source of an exquisite pleasure,
 Received from our brothers wherever we roam.
 How ardent we seize—with our heart overflowing—
 The hand of a "sig" in a far distant spot,
 While to the old college our fancy is going
 Where round the white cross we first tied friendship's knot.

And if in our journey through life we discover
 A Sigma in need of a kind, helping hand
 We'll lend it, remembering he is a brother
 Who's bound to us closely in Sigma Chi's band.
 So when, in the future, our life task is finished
 And down to the dark, rushing river we go,
 We'll cling to our standard with love undiminished—
 The white, jewelled cross that we always loved so.

Lincoln, Nebr. March 4th, 1883.

THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

What Canada may become within a few years is a question of great interest. Prominent English statesmen are continually agitating the subject, some looking at it from one point of view, others from another. Among Englishmen the popular feeling towards Canada is probably about the same as that towards New Zealand or Tasmania; that is to say, most of them would prefer to be excused from emigrating to any of these uncivilized provinces. They think of Canada as a cold, out-of-the-way colony, bound to Great Britain and subject to the Queen of England. They do not realize that it is a vast country as large as all Europe and with great resources within its borders. But men, whose business it is to think upon such subjects, realize all these facts and many additional ones. They know that Canada cannot long remain as she is at present. They see that a change in the government of the whole country is imminent. What this change will be is a point much disputed.

Some think that Canada will frame a declaration of independence and thus become a separate power. Others hold to the opinion that Canada will enter into a close union with Great Britain having equal rights with England and Ireland. Thus not only would they have a voice in the government of their own country but also an influence in British politics. The third view taken is that

Canada may become a part, of the United States. These different possibilities may be considered each in its order.

The first, that of independence, seems the least probable. Canada is not strong enough to endure the almost certain defeat, which would follow an attempt to secede from Great Britain. Nor would she be able to hold her own in a dispute with the great republic lying south of her. Then Canada is not oppressed as the American Colonies before the Revolution were. There is not so much cause for ill-feeling against the parent country as there was in the case of our forefathers who were ground down by the tyranny of George III. Then too, it is not likely that the United States would forget the Monroe doctrine if Canada occupying nearly one half of North America, should set up as an independent power. On the contrary it is extremely probable that vigorous measures would be taken to stop all such proceedings. It is altogether likely that some change will take place in Canadian affairs long before there is sufficient strength to justify secession and the forming of an independent nation. Thus the matter falls within narrower limits, and we pass to the two remaining theories.

The supposition that Canada will enter into a close confederation with Great Britain is, to say the least, very unlikely. The Canadians will be unwilling to enter into any such confederation because they will not wish to mix in the turmoil of European politics. They will not be desirous of becoming part of a power that has war on its hands almost continually, and of being compelled to take an active part in its conflicts. These wars are on European questions which might not be of the least interest to a Canadian living, as he does, three thousand miles from the seat of difficulties. So much from a Canadian standpoint. Now the British, on the other hand, will be unwilling to allow entire strangers, who have no interest at stake, to meddle with their own peculiar affairs. They will be unwilling to relieve Canadian members into their Parliament. The English have already seen about enough of the confederative plan of government in the troubles they are constantly having with the Irish. Is it probable that they would receive another colony on the same basis, and one so unlikely to prove congenial?

We now have the subject narrowed down to a single question: will not Canada wish ultimately to become a part of the United States, thus forming at the same time a powerful element in a great republic, against which the English would vainly make war? This seems most probable. Canada is not separated from the United States by any true boundary line—except in case of that part immediately north of the great lakes.

Canadians have, it is related on good authority, no very strong feeling of patriotism towards the mother country. They are, however, in some degree bound by their interests to the United States. The great Canadian railroads depend, to a large degree, upon the travelling public of the United States for their support. Canadians cannot fail of seeing the great advantages, both social and political that they would gain by joining the United States which have not only better facilities for the people, but also greater possibilities for every one of advancement in all directions. Then Canada is on the same continent as the United States. Nature has placed the two countries so close together that it would be strange, if at some time, they should not be drawn into the close union into which the different states of the American Republic have, at