

ished a few years before, by the ancestors of these same Athenians; the great Columbus was left by a thoughtless people to die in chains; and the Savior of mankind met the most infamous death which finisish ingenuity could devise. In this respect Socrates was not more,—perhaps not less—unfortunate than many others.

Patriotism having called him to the wars of his country, his services there had made him the favorite of the people, and he was accordingly chosen one of the magistrates of the city. But popular favor is a fickle thing, an "ignis fatuus" often pursued, but seldom retained. This is the history of public men through all ages. Yesterday standing upon the dizzy height of popularity, today, crushed beneath the juggernaut car of jealousy.

An incident soon occurred in the official career of Socrates, which tested his moral courage. It came his turn to preside over the Senate, before which some generals were being tried for misconduct in battle. In the hurry of retreat they had neglected to inter the dead, thus violating a well established custom. The noisy rabble clamored for their execution, but Socrates knew that such a course was illegal. Had he been an ambitious demagogue, he would have acquiesced in the demands of the mob. But, as it was, he manfully and heroically resisted them. "From the hour of that denial," says Lamartine "his death was registered in the hearts of his enemies." At last he was brought before the highest tribunal of Athens, accused of disbelief in the gods and of corrupting the youth. Both charges were utterly false, but his enemies were seeking not for justice, only for his destruction. In his defense to the judges he would make no retraction of his views, he would not even agree to change his course in the future. He knew that acquittal might follow should he adopt some other plan, but he said repeatedly, that, having spent so much time in the contemplation of death, he was not now afraid to die. The trial ended finally with his conviction. The sentence of death was passed and his enemies appeared to have triumphed. But it was only an appearance! The man they thought to have buried, still lives! The voice which they supposed they had silenced, still speaks! And while the names of his persecutors lie concealed in the forgotten rubbish of the past, the sublime life, and heroic death of Socrates, will remain the admiration of the world forever.

In summing up the great Athenian's career, we can hardly fail to be impressed with one fact—his individuality. In some respects he was totally unlike any of his contemporaries. The ruling passion of most lives at that day was ambition. Each man sought in some way to immortalize his name. The peculiarity of Socrates as he appears to us, was that he devoted himself to a life of usefulness.

He possessed few qualities which may be called brilliant or dashing. His was not that meteoric fame which dashing forth for the moment and then fades away forever. He was not like his great countryman, Demosthenes, who could sway the multitudes by his golden eloquence. He was no Alexander, deluging the land with blood, conquering the Eastern world and gathering to himself the spoils of war. He did not, like Mahomet, found a great sect which should sing his praises to the end of time. He seemed utterly to forget himself, in his devotion to science and humanity. Neglecting his own affairs,

he labored for the good of his fellow-men; he left a world better than he had found, and, as one great man has said of another; "Though he did not know it he wrote his name in characters of living light, upon the firmament, there to endure as radiant as if every letter had been traced in living stars."

C. S. LOBINGIER, '90

DRIFT.

Some of our contemporaries are offering prizes for stories. Why not? We think of taking the same measures to draw out the latent literary ability that is lying around loose in the University. Therefore we make this offer. For the best short story handed in to us before June 10th a prize of fifty cents (50 cts.) will be freely given. The following rules must be observed.

- I. No sentence shall contain less than fifteen adjectives.
- II. The plot must be entirely original.
- III. One of two twin sisters must fall off a bridge into a dark and rushing river, and she must be rescued by one of two twin brothers. Then bring on the other twins and mix them up;—get them inextricably mixed up.
- IV. There must be a missing will concealed in a secret drawer. It must be discovered by accident.
- V. There must be an unknown eldest son in disguise and he must marry the owner of the missing will.
- VI. There must be a villain and, at the end of the story, he must die in awful agony.
- VII. There must be a detective and he must find a clue.

VIII. Rejected manuscripts will be returned unopened if the requisite number of postage stamps are enclosed

My friends, come up close and hearken unto my words. Some of you are stage-struck. I could pick out a half-a dozen of you that confidently expect to shine as dramatic stars of the first magnitude. To be sure you are quite modest in your aims. If you could play *Hamlet* a little better than Booth you would be satisfied. So far you are worthy of commendation. But wherefore do you imagine that you have any talent in the direction of histrionics. You can bellow forth line after line of Shakespeare, you can prance up and down, wave your arms and stamp your feet in tragic style; you can distort your expressive countenance till you wouldn't be able to pick yourself out in a crowd; you can stalk about looking as if you had an attack of colic and quick consumption combined; but this is not genius. Ah no! Take my advice, and don't rival McCullough, Keene, Mary Anderson *et al.* Be warned.

BEATITUDES.

- Blessed are the poor in purse: for they shall dodge the ice-cream parlor.
- Blessed are they which flunk: for they shall sup with their parents in the country.
- Blessed are the Preps: for they know not the ways of Calculus.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after knowledge for they shall get 59:9-10 in final examination.
- Blessed are the studious: for they shall obtain mercy.
- Blessed are they which crib: for they shall see a diplo-