

Norfolk, Va., is a great place. Its products are principally oysters, and some other kinds of birds. I don't know what you call 'em, but when you go in a restaurant and see one on the table, you hit it with a spoon and then put a cracker over the spot to hide the result. Oysters are produced there by the thousand barrels. They are worth \$1.25 a bushel or 40c a dozen as at Brown's. We had a flirtation on board, that developed into a "mash." I tried to secure it for an engagement at the Univ. but the "mash" wouldn't go west. After all I don't believe it was a more pronounced "crush" than our noted bell rope corner-during chapel-time one. We had an uneventful ride up to Baltimore through the Chesapeake Bay.

Well that's all that happened on the boat. We had a gay time. Give my love to all the girls. I hope to be with you soon. In the words of the poet

I'm going home no more to roam,  
No more to ———

but there, I haven't been painting things at all.

'91.

#### CURRENT COMMENT.

The republican primaries held in the city about a week ago may furnish an interesting subject for a few moments reflection. The total number of votes cast was about three fifths of the republican vote at the last election. The general character and reputation of the delegates is higher than usual. Only five proprietors of saloons are delegates. The *Call* and *Journal* both have delegates from the same ward. Three alumni of the University are delegates.

Americans seem to be taken with an abnormal and permanent enthusiasm for their national game. Had the league pennants been as closely contested for in previous years, we cannot say that, to a lover of athletics, this enthusiasm is in excusable. With the pennants so closely contested for, and former champion clubs, after a determined struggle, left behind in all of the leagues—base ball thus, is a treat to the enthusiast, is of passing interest, even to the more prosy.

It would seem that some arrangements might be made whereby the students could secure their books at less exorbitant prices, without resorting to the methods, adopted by some of the professors, of changing the text book each year to secure introduction prices. Some of the professors while in the east during the summer secured books for that special classes at discounts of from twenty to forty per cent, which the dealers of the city would not furnish at less than list prices. This discount is quite an object to students, especially on sets of book costing from five to ten dollars. We mention this in no complaint, but rather in gratitude for what has been done and in hope that more may be done in this line.

The history of Johns Hopkins University is very interesting. The instruction of students began October 3d, 1876. The first doctors degree was conferred in 1878 and the first bachelors degree was conferred in 1879. The university had an endowment of three million dollars, with an ample income. In ten years one hundred thirty-one Ph. D. and one hundred twenty-seven B. A. degreee have been conferred. A faculty of of fifty members, second to none in this country, has been secured, and Johns Hopkins University brought up to rank first of the American universities. Its graduates are in greater demand than those of any other institution of learn-

ing in America. Twenty-one fellowships and one hundred five scholarships have been provided for the aid of meritorious students. The chief income of the university was from Baltimore & Ohio stocks. These have depreciated in value until Johns Hopkins is left practically without an income. Sufficient funds have been raised to carry it through three years, and it is to be most sincerely hoped that the university will be again placed on a financial basis where its good work, so well begun, may go on.

The faculty, the parents of some of the University cadets, and that portion of the general public who at the time of the annual encampments of the University cadets, seem unusually anxious or fearful of the department of the cadets, may find food for reflection, by comparing the press reports of the encampment of Gov. Thayer's political pets, the N. N. G. boys who have just closed their annual encampment at Beatrice. When the actions of the cadets became so hilarious, so hoodlum like, that it takes the united efforts of the mayor of the city, and the colonel of the regiment to prevent a riot then we will not object to the abolition of the annual encampment. With the University cadets that time is far distant.

There seems to be, by far, a greater number of new students in the University this fall than ever before. This is the case with many colleges throughout the country and the *Journal* draws the conclusion therefrom, that "times are letting up and the agriculturalists of the country are feeling richer." They might have added, also that agriculturalists of the country are becoming educated, and awake to the situation and to the need of a deeper and broader knowledge, to successfully cope with the other classes with which they come in contact. They may thus solve the social problem, for themselves, beforehand, and prevent its ever becoming such a monster as it is in the nations of ignorant agriculturalists.

The opening of the third annual Corn Palace Carnival at Sioux City illustrates the novel way of advertising adopted by some of our northern and western cities. The Veiled Prophets of St. Louis, the Corn Palace of Sioux City, the Ice Palace of Montreal and King Tartarax of Lincoln do much to spread the name and fame of these cities throughout the country and abroad. If advertising in any way is profitable to a city, then surely this is one of the best ways for a city to advertise, for it gives more extended and more general publicity than any other method. Newspaper accounts of these carnivals are very generally published and read with interest throughout the country; while there is a vast amount of entertainment and instruction to the citizens of those cities, of which they receive nothing from other ways of advertising.

A rotten piece of rottenness is charged by the *Washington Post* against the civil service commission, and especially against the older members thereof. While working persistently in extending its power over new departments of the service, and continually expounding upon the frauds of appointments made on competitive examinations, still it continues to appoint its own corps of clerks in the old way without examinations of any sort. The *Post* further charges sundry clerks of the departments with selling the lists of questions for the competitive examinations to candidates for positions. If this government could in some manner get its reforms started aright, something might result from them but in the majority of cases, when a reformatory plan is started, though started in all honesty, it is too soon captured by polit-