

light of the previous election but in the light of all past history. The college graduate has not all the practicality and common sense that the veteran self-made editor has, but he will get it a great deal sooner than did that same editor. Besides, he has much that the self educated man is without, unless the latter has delved for years, against every disadvantage, in the field of learning. The college press furnishes just that preparatory work which the college man needs if he intends to enter journalism. The training he there receives differs from actual journalism chiefly in degree, but little in kind. The "college world" is indeed the world in miniature. There are few institutions of "real life" which have not their counterparts in college life. The college editor deals with these as does his mightier contemporary with the grave affairs of the world. He learns to think and to make words tell what he thinks. Nor is the college paper an instrument of good only to those who expect to enter journalism. Every college editor who has faithfully performed his duties has learned much that he could have learned in no other way, has gained experience that will be useful to him in any pursuit he may afterwards engage in. College journalism has grown mighty in the last few years, but it has not not reached its full stature nor its widest influence. It will make itself felt and respected as a great factor in education. We have had our turn at college editing, and we feel better and stronger for it. We turn this particular specimen of college journalism over to our successor, feeling that he, too will come to love the work, and to feel glad that he was once a college editor.

SOME time ago the Senior class of the University presented a petition to the faculty asking that commencement orations be done away with, and that instead an orator from abroad be secured to address the assembled multitude on commencement day. The faculty have not taken action on the petition, so far as we know. If they have, what we say may be taken as justification of that action, if favorable, or as a protest against it, if unfavorable. Such a petition, from a class approaching that day which has by time-honored custom come to be the day of days for parade and superficial show of accomplishments, means something. It would not be just to ascribe the action to laziness, to desire to avoid extra work, for the experience of years has shown that to write a graduating oration is a privilege to be striven for, not refused. It is a chance to appear distinguished above one's fellows, to be the cynosure of many eyes. It is, in a sense, an opportunity to represent the institution which has given all the wealth of knowledge which is displayed; to show to the world what a man may become who drinks at this particular fountain of learning. Is a little paltry work to weigh equally in the balance against these privileges? Thousands of commencement orators answer, No! No more can we ascribe the action to a feeling that the class has no member fit to set before the public as a sample of what a college man or woman should be. Was there ever a class graduated which did not include several such paragons? No, these reasons had little weight in bringing the class to decide against gradu-

ating orations. Rather they had come to feel that this medieval custom was out of place in the practicality of the present age. It is a survival, and even survivals have limits to their usefulness and proper term of existence. The class of '90 has in sober judgment deemed that limit now to be reached. They have felt that the tinkling rhetoric and the gay flowers, the fine clothes and the admiring audience, are perhaps fitting accompaniments of the lighter pleasures of the college course, but are out of place at the moment when those pleasures are to be exchanged for the stern realities of earning one's living. This exaltation at the close of college life, but makes the contrast greater between the glories of that day and the meanness of the country school or clerkship which follows. They fail to see the necessity for an institution of learning to have an annual "opening" like a millinery shop or a dry goods store. They fail to see the relation of the pomp and parade of commencement to earnest striving after knowledge. They fail to see that it is just for the public to expect a man to put an epitome of four year's learning, and the result of mental training for a like period, into a ten minute oration. In a word, they refuse to be judged of the world by one brief, dazzling appearance, but prefer to be approved or condemned according as their work as men and women, parts of society, is good or bad. The faculty may not see these things in the way we have put them, but we know that some of them are favorable to the granting of the petition. We hope that all feel so, and that the class of '90 may be the first to go out of the University in a sensible, businesslike manner, free from all the cant, hypocrisy and vanity so characteristic of the ordinary commencement. Then will the jealousy, wrangling, and heart-burnings of aspirants for graduating honors be stilled. Then will the pique of doting and offended parents have no cause for existence. Then too will graduates be less likely to consider themselves conquering heroes, turned loose for the world to pay homage to. If this be not the year when custom is to be left in the lurch, and common-sense is to prevail, we pray that our immediate successors may put their case more strongly, and receive the consideration due to the merits of their request.

LITERARY.

No doubt everyone has thought the same at one time or another; what is circumstance. Perhaps all have agreed that the saddest of saddening reflections is, "if it only might have been." But how many are there, who have lived enough to be able to put away individuality, will, and say there is no "might have been" no "may be." It costs an effort to do it. It means the giving up of confident aspirations, of self-satisfied independence, and brings a realizing sense of weakness that is far from acceptable to a strong mind and will. It does not cause, necessarily, a selfish indifference to events, but it does cause calm contentment and a broad-minded estimate of men and times. For, to say there is no "may be," is to say that an unchangeable power rules men, and takes from history the glory of human achievement and places it where it really belongs, but without robbing humanity of its responsibility.

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In his "Philosophy of War," Count Tolstoi discusses this. He takes up "Napoleon's Russian Campaign" and traces its course to show that it could not have taken place under any other circumstances nor have manifested itself in any other form. He also shows how, according to his view, Napoleon is no more responsible for the good or evil of that campaign