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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1912.

THE WHITE STONE STEPS.

To the campus visitor there is nothing particularly significant about the white stone steps, with their red sides, which mark the entrance to the Library. They are nine in number, considerably worn by weather and constant use, and possess the same useful qualities which exist in any steps. Thus they impress the visitor, whose scope of observation is narrow and is limited by a lack of information as to college activities.

But to the college student what a charming aspect these sordid steps acquire! They represent a wealth of

who are socially inclined. The latter are not so much in evidence, nor is their possession of the steps as stable a one as is held by the former. Their methods are different; they are more covert and more obscure in their aims, but we must admit they exist.

By glancing at the steps from a distance one obtains a clear idea of the constant activity. The masculine invader evidently goes through some mental process before he attempts the ascent or descent of these white stone steps. He glances furtively at the red ledges, perhaps he deems it advisable to turn aside and attempt later; at other times he makes swiftly for a certain ledge, smiles and removes his

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mystery and of past events. Each step is significant, each red-stone ledge brings back memories of the past. We can remember the first time we ascended them. We were stunned by the overwhelming presence of the feminine. The steps seemed to be of irregular height; what if we should fall! Nor has this fear ever entirely left us, for there on the steps are the eternal feminine. They generally congregate in small groups and, we imagine, abhor the evil of remarking about others. They cluster thickly on the red-stone ledges and not infrequently hover about in the middle of the steps to discuss a lecture.—perhaps even a dance. These discussions often cover a period of five or ten minutes and materially block the progress of zealous students who are constantly streaming in or out.

But it must not be thought that the feminine have undisputed possession of this romantic spot; truly they predominate, but their presence is encouraged by those of the masculine

hat. But these are not the only possibilities, he may pass a smoothing hand over his ruffled hair, assume a perpetual smile and dash headlong into the current of zealous students; he may appear bored and thus hide an intense exhilaration,—even men are clever at disguises.

During the course of these activities conversational powers are developed. The weather is discussed, introductions are made, jokes are perpetuated, gossip is indulged in, and lastly and primarily, dates are made—or attempted. Perhaps the agreement merely constitutes a walk to the book store for ink,—and for candy; perhaps it means the rent of a dress suit and the hire of a cab. But, regardless of the nature, the all-important fact remains that the steps are the birth-place of these contracts.

One sees, then, in this continued stream of zealous students a subtle something which breathes of mystery and excitement. The stream varies in size and rapidity, and at regular

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