

**THE HONOR SYSTEM AT WILLIAMS.**

An interesting letter has lately been received from Williams college describing the so-called "honor system," one form of which has been introduced there during the year. That some such system is needed in every student body, no one will question, but long experiment may be necessary to determine the best method.

Under the system adopted at Williams, which is modelled after the one in vogue at Princeton, the greatest possible freedom is allowed to the student during an examination. He may talk with anyone whom he pleases, or he may leave the room freely and return. The instructor may be present in the room, but not for the supervision of the students in respect to dishonesty. An instructor has no authority to report a student for dishonesty except on the written evidence of the examination paper itself. A recent case was of this kind when one student copied from a neighbor's paper. At the close of the examination each student writes on his paper that he has neither received nor given any aid, and signs his statement.

Of course, such freedom as has been described must be thoroughly guarded by the sentiment of the entire institution, and the machinery of the organization must be such as to meet all cases. The form of organization at Williams is very simple. The whole matter is in the hands of a student committee, consisting of four seniors, three juniors, two sophomores and one freshman. To this committee any student may report another for dishonesty. A four-fifths vote of the committee is then necessary for conviction. The severity of the punishment increases according to the time a student has been in college. In the case of an upper classman the recommendation from the student committee is usually "separation from the college," and sentence is pronounced accordingly.

A large majority of the students at Williams are enthusiastic for the system, a few are indifferent, a few hostile.

It must be granted that it is a system full of perils and that great wisdom is necessary in carrying it out successfully. Only experience will show whether one student will actually inform against another in case he detects him in dishonesty. But even if they do not the effect of the system will unquestionably be to reduce dishonesty for a time.

A peril to the system is that one-fourth of the whole number of students comes in fresh from schools every year, many of the with the habit of cheating already acquired.

The scheme as in force at Williams was modelled by the students themselves and was carried through wholly by student influence and agitation. This is as it should be everywhere. Of course various conferences between representatives of the student and faculty bodies are necessary before any final policy can be shaped.

As the scheme is a recent one at Williams, not many cases have thus far come under it. One freshman has lately been suspended for a month, that limit bringing him back in time for the semi-annual examinations.

Doubtless many modifications would be advisable if the general plan were to be adopted here in Nebraska, but the student body has leaders who would be able to initiate and to put into operation by the time of examinations, some such system. Would that it might be done.

R. A. CLARK.

The following is from the Alumni Princetonian:

"Many were the doubts expressed by those who called themselves our friends regarding the feasibility of the new plan of holding examinations, when first tried two years ago. But these men have been effectually silenced by the success which has attended the plan. By the passing of these articles (constitution regulating honor system) the college has stamped the thing with unqualified approval. It has taken two years of trial to establish the Honor System, and to secure for it the form and stability of a written set of rules or articles. But we may rest assured that the spirit which was present in the recent meeting will not die for many a year.

"The unmistakable success of the system, even from its very first trial is a most encouraging sign to those who in the outside world see the degradation of American honor which is so common in politics.

"We hope that the article will be read carefully by all our friends and that one or two facts will be borne in mind, viz.: that they were adopted unanimously by a college mass meeting; that the principle embodied has been tried with success for two years and a half and that they are lived up to. No more unfortunate thing can happen to a man than to be seen violating even in the slightest way the 'Honor System of examinations' which in the north may be well known as the 'Princeton System.'"

Francis brothers, proprietors of the Capital Cafe, have purchased a new coffee urn and are now prepared to dispense a delicious cup at any time of night or day.

**Sins of the Fathers.**

Fair Girl—I am sure papa would not object to you, but I am afraid mamma will. She says your family have depraved tastes.

Rich Grocer's Son—Good gracious! Where did she get that idea?

Fair Girl—I think she judges by the butter that your father used to recommend as good.

**One Reason.**

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**Society Note.**

Mrs. Snobberly, a very aristocratic New York lady, received a visit from a friend, who among other gossip, said:

"Do you know that your son has been several times in company with a seamstress? Everybody is talking about it."

"Oh, that doesn't amount to anything," replied Mrs. Snobberly smiling.

"But I am told that the young lady is perfectly respectable."

"Horrible! horrible!" shrieked the agonized mother. "He may bring disgrace upon our family by marrying her."

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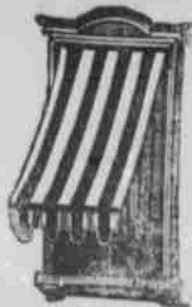
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