

torated in the waste-basket and cleaned his throat.

"Well, gentlemen, I do not have time to give this remarkable bug the study it deserves. I do not remember to have seen this before in Nebraska. The name has escaped me now, but judging from the great spread of wing, I should be inclined to think it was a hum bug."

We skipped his classes for two weeks.

The oblong wooden blocks screwed to the top of the balustrade tell their own story. But—! The east stairway was reserved exclusively for the use of the girls in those days!

The recitation rooms were heated by hard coal stoves, as has been said, and it was as much as one janitor could do to keep them supplied with coal. One of the students, J. O. Breech, used to assist John Green in this, and, in order to avoid walking down stairs, had developed surprising dexterity in sliding down. He would start in the attic, and by a skillful balancing of his body was able to turn the corners without any diminution of speed. By the time he reached the first floor, his rate of speed would naturally be little less than a mile a minute and his manner of alighting neither noiseless nor gentle. We all imitated him and soon equalled him. Indeed, it came to be the regular thing to hear quick successions of from fifteen to twenty bangs and thumps as that number of boys came following each other down the balustrade. The girls used always to alight gently and gracefully and created no disturbance. The climax was reached one day when a fellow named James Larkin came down. He weighed two hundred and twenty-five pounds and came at the usual speed. The momentum of a body is equal to the weight multiplied by the rate of speed, and his approach was well nigh irresistible? But when he attempted to alight he caught his toe in some old rush matting that lay on the floor, and was hurled in a helpless heap against the door to a room where a class was reciting. Soon afterwards the blocks appeared.

Chancellor Manatt had considerable trouble with the students. But it must be laid largely to the irritability attendant on bad health. The students destroyed no property, offered no violence, and engaged in no practices in the least reprehensible. Their fun was of the most innocent sort until they began to take up arms in self defense. In those days it was not considered bright for a half dozen of one class to waylay one of another class, knock him down and cut his hair off. Instead they painted *Cash for Stiffs* on the University roof, which was much more courageous and adroit. They realized that it required considerable courage of a sort to go deliberately to the devil, and that it was neither glorious nor brave to get drunk on the sly or bet a few dollars on a sure thing.

The first event that seemed to rouse the ire of Chancellor Manatt was the celebrated "teetering on the lumber pile." This happened one Friday evening while the Chemical Laboratory was being built. Piles of lumber had been scattered about the campus, and on a sudden impulse the boys invaded the building, brought out some of the carpenters' trestles, put boards across and began. The girls too became infected, and there they "teetered," a boy on one end and a girl on the other, two boys on one end and two girls on the other, or a boy and a girl on each end, until the small hours of the morning.

This came to Chancellor Manatt's ears, but he proceeded rashly with measures before he had found out just who they were that had "teetered." Some of the Seniors had been the leaders, and on Monday morning he pounced upon them in a political economy class that he taught. One of the girls seemed to have incurred his special displeasure, although she had "teetered" no more than anyone else. He vented his anger on her, and spoke of the whole affair as "immoral" and "unwomanly." She nearly sank through the floor, and he finally desisted only upon the protests of the others.