PRANKS of COLLEGE BOYS

ECCENTRIC BUT HARMLESS DIVERSIONS WHICH BREAK THE MONOTONY OF STUDENT LIFE.

"Charter Day" Carrying rock and cement up Charter Hill to build the big 'C'.

"IT isn't the same old Heidelberg," to be sure, when the alumnus comes back to Stanford in pilgrimage now, and yet the legends of the good old time cling ever to the shrine.

Remember that day at college, years ago, when they shaved our friend B——? B——, don't you know, was a freshman who presumed to wear side whiskers. The sophomores couldn't raise hirsute adornments of that sort, and so they warned Mr. B— that the whiskers must come off. They didn't, and so an indignation meeting was called in the men's room. At Stanford they would call it the "bull-pen," in the Middle West the "bum room." Plans were laid and B—— was kidnapped on his way to an exam. Then the boys laid him out—four sophomores sitting upon his anatomy to keep him down, while the others, each in turn, took a hand at a biological razor, much the worse for wear, and shaved one-half of his face clean as a baby's. The other half they would not touch, but, with its wealth of sideburns, turned the owner loose to go to class one cheek shaven, the other unshorn.

Commencement time brings back other recollections of old "Heidelberg."

Out there on the campus still stands the tree beneath which Harry and Evelyn used to spoon. Poor Harry! All the "spooning," all the fun at his expense never stood him in good stead, for Evelyn married away from the college town and left him behind to mourn.

It was all this way with Harry. They had made him an associate editor of the News, and one of his duties each week was to carry the manuscript to the typesetter in town. There, on the linotype, the News would be set and slugs made for the lines, and these Harry carried back to college next morning, so that they could be printed on the university press.

One night Harry was going to call on Evelyn right after tea. He hadn't time to go home with the slugs, and of course he would stay too late to take them from town that night. So, in his Prince Albert, Harry bore the slugs to the home of his fiancée. Once enwrapped in her charms all thought of them vanished, and when with midnight Harry left her home it was with the slugs behind him.

The next day Papa found the two boxes on the porch. They were wrapped about with paper, and heavy. My, so heavy! twenty pounds apiece, or more. Papa had been in politics and threatened with dynamiting once or twice, and now felt the hour had come. Fool him? Not he! He telephoned for the city police, and they sent up their explosive expert. Gingerly he undid the paper, only to find Harry's slugs. He, however, in his clumsiness took them along to Police Headquarters. There the reporters got hold of the story, and, being accustomed to reading from slugs, discovered the origin of the matter. Of course they published the story, bringing in all the romance and glamour of a college wooing, and Harry knew nothing of it until he came to class.

Happy-go-lucky college days, once again at hand! Each and every college with its own peculiar customs, interesting ever to the collegian and the layman as well!

Out at Stanford, at Palo Alto, each October, they hold the "plug-ugly," unique among our college ceremonials. That night the juniors present the "plug-ugly" farce, local in plot, more local in its allusions, the product of the pen of some member of the gifted class. Then, at the end of the play, the plot manages to introduce the entire junior class, wearing the new plugs, indicative of their rank, as well as rough brown corduroy trousers.

This entry is made the signal for the seniors to rush to the attack, attempting in any way they can to break the "plugs" of their colleagues. Luckily, men only take part in the farce, and so the women escape the scrimmage. But from the bleachers about the oval the rival calls of the classes mingle like some tocsin of old, spurring on the men to victory.

In fact, in the far West of the United States the hat seems to be the favorite insignia for rank and for attack.

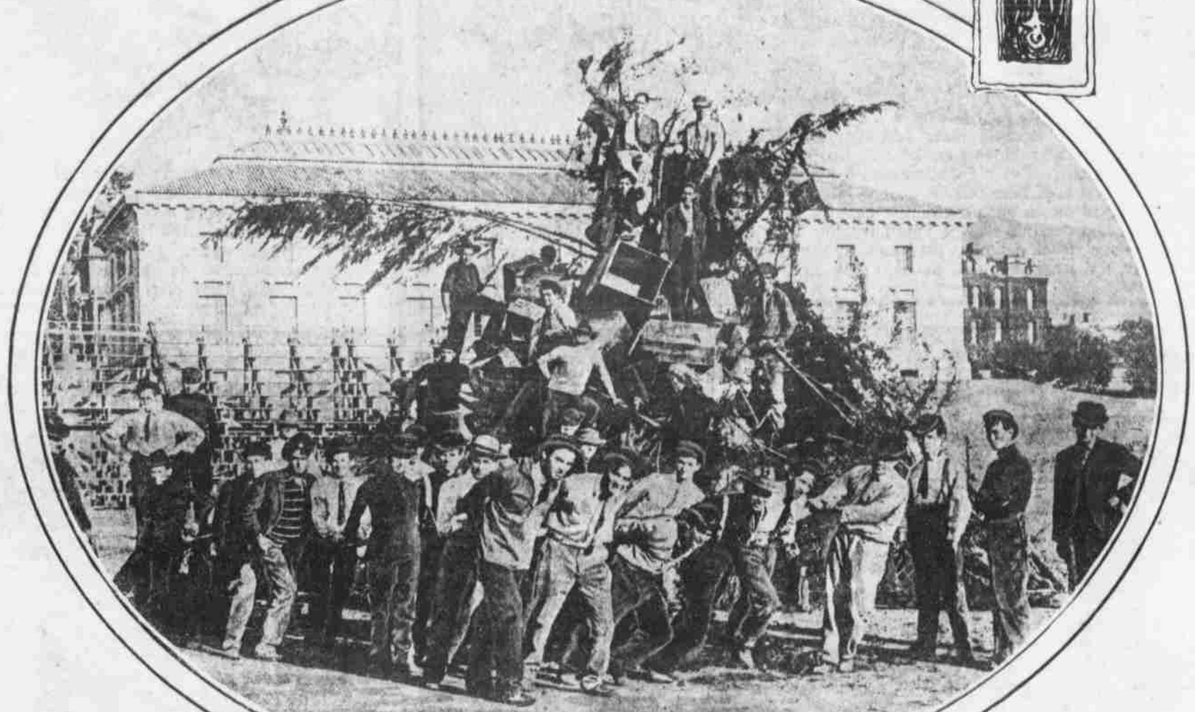
Probably no university in the world presents a more unique exhibition of headgear than the University of California, at Berkeley. Not alone must hats undergo the "plug ugly" ceremonial, but the more battered and worn they have become, the better they suit the purposes of their owners. The more battered, the more unique, and the more are they worn. You will see a senior go about with a brimless crown or a crownless brim at any time out at Berkeley.

There is another custom at Berkeley that is unique among our colleges. It all hangs about the tale of an axe—just a plain, everyday axe. Many years ago, as years go with college students, the boys from Leland Stanford came up to Berkeley brandishing an axe as a symbol of what they would do in the forthcoming athletic contests. California, of course, could stand no such taunt, and made a rush for the axe. The enemy fled, the home guard in pursuit. The Berkleyites got the axe, and in their turn, then fled. This time the policeman became involved and all the town was out. Stanford got its axe again, and again there was a race for it.

Then a demure young Berkelyite came, new, upon the scene. Clever lad that he was, he worked in with the enemy until they thought him one of themselves. Then seeing the axe bearer hard pressed he made him give him the axe, being fleeter of foot than the timid bearer. So the axe was passed over, and to this day reposes in the archives of Berkeley. Once a year they bring it out, and tell the story of the glorious victory.

And the bonfires! Those are distinctly Western in the way of college customs. As in the old university towns of Germany, that likewise lived off the students, perpetual war exists between the student and the townsman of Berkeley. One day in the year, as with our more Eastern Hallowe'en the law is set aside and everything is open to pillage. The more difficult to steal, the more fit for the pyre, and the young men of Berkeley scour the town for things for the fire. All into one great bonfire, and then, over that, proper eulogies, to accompany while the college band plays "Boola," the song of songs in the West.

Berkeley, too, has its memento to the college pranks and escapades. They had one custom in the corps which, while not exactly hazing in the precise sense of the word, was frowned down upon by the faculty.



A senior rally, building the bonfire

The 'Plug-Ugly' custom at Leland Stanford University Cal.

The faculty resolved that that must be abandoned. Exuberant spirits, however, must be let out somewhere, and so it was suggested that the rival faction devote their strength to building a mammoth "C" on the hill behind the university. In Turkey travellers will know of their approach to a town from afar by the crescent cut into the rock on the steepest mountain-side about. So here, the site of California University may be known from afar by this gigantic letter on the slope.

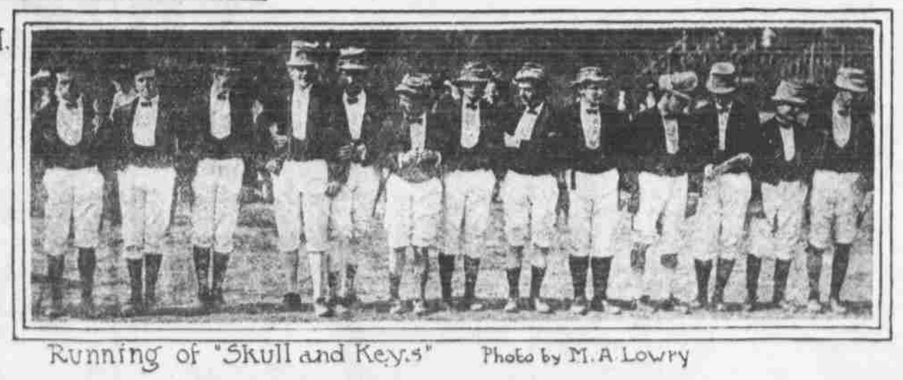
Berkeley days are happy days. Out in the Far West, as in the Middle West, the closing of the college year bears mixed in with the joy of taking the degree, the sorrow of passing from the old college halls.

At Leland Stanford there is a college song, "Hail, Stanford, Hail," sung on occasions such as these, particularly fitting to the hour.

But not for long is the college student sad. Life is too full to overflowing with exuberance and animal spirits for that. Out he bursts again in his "Boola" and then the class yell, as the fittest manner for bidding alma mater adieu.

A Natural Lightning Rod.

FOREST fires have been very prevalent in the district of Kendrick, Idaho. After much searching the cause was found to be a huge natural lightning rod, in the shape of an iron ledge in the mountain side. Upon further investigation it was found that the ground was marked with iron outcroppings and that the bolts from the sky had ignited all the fires.



Running of "Skull and Keys" Photo by M. A Lowry

CANADIAN BEET AND MAPLE SUGAR.

WITH the farmers of Ontario anxious to raise sugar beets, it is nevertheless now certain that there will be fewer acres planted this year than there were last year, when the total was approximately 15,000 acres. This is because many of the men who would like to grow sugar beets are unable to find a market for them, either at home or in the United States. The farmers throughout this section of the province, who raised beets last year almost without exception, found the crop a very profitable one, the yield running from ten to twenty tons per acre, often netting the farmer from $50 to $60 per acre clear profit. The beet sugar factories at Wallaceburg and Berlin, the only sugar factories in the province which operated last season, are both contracting for slightly increased acreage this year, but as they had all they could handle last year will not be able to furnish a market for more than two-thirds of the acreage that could easily be contracted for this season.

The Marine City (Mich.) sugar factory, which last year was a heavy purchaser of Ontario beets, has fallen into financial difficulties and will not operate this season. It made quite a number of contracts for beet acreage in the Chatham district last fall and many of the farmers, with whom these contracts were made, have been unable to find another market, and will plant tobacco instead of beets. The Wiarton sugar factory, which was idle last year, it is definitely announced, will stand idle again this year, the litigation in which it is involved having been settled too late to permit of contracts for a crop for this season being made. The Keystone Company, at Whitby, on Lake Ontario, has contracts for some 2,000 acres of sugar beets, but will probably have to find an export market, and it is claimed that the duty of $1 a ton on beets going into the United States is practically prohibitive. Negotiations for the establishment of beet sugar factories at Chatham and Dresden are well under way and promise to be successful, but it is now too late for them to secure crops for a run this season.

A report just issued by the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture of the Dominion government, gives the following facts regarding maple sugar:—

The sugar making season is now over, and while this province (Quebec) was not quite up to that of previous years, the season was a fairly good one, and in the other three sugar making provinces was about up to the usual. Sugar and syrup are made in four provinces—Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—and enormous quantities are turned out. In 1901 the product amounted to 17,804,825 pounds, the money value of which was $1,780,482. Canada supplies over three-sevenths of the output of the maple sugar and syrup of the world, and is capable of furnishing six times the quantity of sugar and syrup she does if the owners of the maples would push the work as they could. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Eastern Ontario make the northern and western boundary or limits of the sugar maple. It extends into Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio in considerable quantities and a great deal of maple products are put out there. The sugar maple does not grow in Europe except in arboretums. The output of 1902 will almost equal that of 1901, the best authorities say, but the season having just closed no official figures are yet issued.

A few years ago the Department of State caused an investigation to be made touching the production of sugar of milk in Switzerland, with a view to the introduction of that industry in the United States. The information required was rather hard to obtain on account of the care with which Swiss dairymen guard the secret of extracting sugar from the whey, which is a by-product of their cheese factories. But American competition has done them as little harm as by the partial transmission to our country of the immensely more important condensed milk industry.

A patriotic Swiss, living in America, now proposes slightly to indemnify his native country for the various forms of wealth that have been from time to time transferred to the United States by sending 300 sugar maple trees to form an experimental plantation in the Canton of Baselland. These young trees arrived last June in bad condition on account of delay and neglect during their shipment and half of them have died. What are left seem to be doing well, and in the course of fifteen or twenty years are expected to furnish a trifling relief from the burden of the bill for sugar, which, like that for coal, iron and cereals, weighs heavily on the finances of the clever-est and most successful industrial people of Europe.

There is, in fact, no apparent reason why the soil of continental Europe should not produce the sugar maple. Its near relation, the field maple (Acer campestris), is a very common tree, while there are no more popular shade trees than the sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and the pointed leaf maple (Acer platanoides), which most nearly resembles our red or swamp maple. It has even been suggested that the tree last mentioned be also introduced to heighten, if possible, the already far famed autumn scenery of the country. For the leaves of the several native species, beautiful as they are, never display quite the vivid colors of our red maple.

Planning to Foretell and Utilize Earthquakes.

Prof. T. A. Jaggar
Photo. by Notman's

WILL man, heretofore the helpless victim of the wild outbursts of earth forces, soon be able by his scientific knowledge to forecast the furies of volcanoes and earthquakes? Can the scientist, by the study of modern data, give warning of subterranean tumult and avert destruction of life and property? Are populations still to be overwhelmed by unforeseen catastrophes of the earth's unrest, or has the modern man arrived at that sapient age when he is capable of mastering the infuriated forces of nature, not only to escape harm, but clever enough to harness these infinite powers to do his will?

Professor Thomas A. Jaggar, Jr., of Harvard University, an eminent specialist in the subject of earth forces, has just announced, upon his return from a study of the recent eruption of Vesuvius, that the time has arrived when man must make some practical resistance against such phenomena as recently wrought havoc in Italy and on the Pacific coast. He believes that the time has come when a systematic scientific study of earth physics will reduce the risk from earthquakes and volcanoes, just as man now reduces the risks which can be anticipated by insurance. More than this, he believes that a fuller knowledge of such phenomena will lead to the discovery of methods of turning these forces of destruction to useful purposes, and that from them man may derive power as he does now from coal.

As a means to such accomplishments Professor Jaggar has announced the need of a unique institution. There must be founded, he says, an institution for the observation and measurement of earth movements.

"We have plenty of astronomical observatories," he said, "but for the study of these more immediately practical subjects we have no system and no equipment. The recurring great loss of life and property shows how pressing is the need for such study. For such study there is need of an endowment to provide the facilities."

For a great many years the Harvard professor has been studying this subject, but just recently has his mind been quickened to a realization of the importance of more widespread study in his chosen field. He was hastening to Naples last month to study the eruption of Vesuvius, just as he had been hurriedly despatched to Martinique in 1902 to observe Mont Pelée, when in Paris the news came to him of the destruction of San Francisco.

It was this coincidence of disasters that forcibly impressed upon his mind "the incompetency of man to cope with natural phenomena." From this inspiration he has made his announcement of a great scientific need. Should some public spirited persons afford an endowment to establish an American laboratory of seismology, such will be the story of its birth.

Had there been such a laboratory in existence it would have been repaid manifold by the savings even by the avoidance of the disasters of only five recent years. The losses at Galveston, St. Pierre, Calabria, Naples and San Francisco would have been less appalling.

Running over the history of disasters, one is overwhelmed by the wholesale loss of life:—Sixty thousand persons killed by Vesuvius in 79 A. D.; fifteen thousand Catanians killed by Mount Etna in 1169; three thousand more killed by Vesuvius in 1631; only twenty-six persons escaping Tomboro Mountain in 1815 from a population of twelve thousand, in the island of Sumbawa; only one man surviving at St. Pierre four years ago, and Japan since 1891 has lost fifty thousand lives. Added to this doleful chronicle the loss of property mounts to incomprehensible sums.

Spending his life in the contemplation of such facts of nature, noting the scanty equipment which scientists in this subject have at present, and realizing the vast sums spent on other subjects of less compelling importance, Professor Jaggar has appealed for safeguarding apparatus. He compares the need of such apparatus with the expenditures made in other branches.

"The armaments of the world are a source of protection of nations," says he, "maintained among the largest items of the public budget. Japan has lost more lives by earthquakes and their subsequent tidal waves than in the whole Russian war. The United States Weather Service is maintained to study the movements of the atmosphere and thereby aids commerce, navigation and the public safety. This service publishes a monthly bulletin and many maps. There is no parallel service anywhere in the world to study the movements of the earth with its watery and atmospheric envelopes. Astronomical observations are at work everywhere. Occasionally they make a practical contribution to navigation or geodesy, but almost all of their modern work is theoretical. None the less, it is justly recognized as of the highest value to the progress of mankind. And yet, for economy, the measurement and study of our own earth and its movements, and for the maintenance of such study, there is no institution in existence. The nearest approach to such an establishment was the appropriation by the Carnegie Institution of money for a geophysical laboratory. This laboratory is doing theoretical work of the highest value in pure science. But such work, following the methods of the physical and chemical laboratory, does not concern itself with the earth as a laboratory. There is needed an institution which shall be devoted to the observation and measurement of earth movements, and primarily with a view to the practical application of such studies. The practical application of first importance is the preservation of human life and property."

To this Professor Jagger adds a prophecy for the future. "The time has come when some money should be spent on the earth's internal energies," he says. "forces which, if properly controlled and adequately guarded against, may eventually replace coal in furnishing man with power."

Of his confidence in the results of the work he said:—"I think if we could get at Harvard, or anywhere, a properly endowed laboratory for the study of earth movements, with a view to the protection of human life—and only with that in view, because it is necessary to have some kind of limit to scientific work—we might be able in a few years to make earthquakes and volcanoes ordinary risks for insurance, and also succeed in preserving a great many human lives that are lost under present conditions."

A scheme is on foot among members of the Osaka City Council to organize an electric railway company to run between Osaka and Kyoto. The capital stock proposed is $2,500,000. Japan will show remarkable development in electric enterprises this year.