

## YALE ALUMNI WEEKLY.

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NEW HAVEN, CONN., NOVEMBER 12, 1896.

## UNDERGRADUATE FINANCES.

There are not as many texts now, as there once were, in the report of any one of the University Athletic Associations. Time was, when it was not possible to run the eye down the table of expense—provided that table was a complete and simple record of the year's outlay—without being amused, or growing thoughtful and perhaps a little excited over the

superiority to the restraints of the commonest barriers of economy, which seemed to have pervaded the business management of the year. There was something perhaps refreshing to the disinterested reader in that utter indifference to the common measure of value of money, but the thought did not rest as easily on the minds of those who had to submit to the taxes or the prices by which the treasury was filled.

There are different reasons for the present improvement. Intercollegiate athletics, grown suddenly to great proportions, came under the public eye and the official eye of Faculties, and the business managements of the different associations came to be looked on by the students themselves as matters of more concern. More care was taken in the choice of officers and here at Yale the office of assistant manager was created, and by this means a degree of continuity in the system of management was established. There is no doubt that this has helped the different associations to avoid some of the most glaring errors of high prices and unfavorable contracts.

Another means of improvement here has been found in the Financial Union. This organization exercises no direct, restraining influence over the expenditures, and in general its sphere seems to be only to provide a disbursing officer. The Treasurer of the Union, a graduate, pays the bills which the respective undergraduate officers contract. When there is a surplus in any association's account, its disposition depends on the vote of the Presidents of the four associations. It may be used to meet the deficiency

in the revenues of another member of the Union, or it may go to some such object as the lifting of the debt on the Yale Field or to the Gymnasium fund.

As loose as this organization is, there is no doubt that it has accomplished much in the way of economy and businesslike methods in the different associations. The mere fact of the association of the different managements suggest the common interests and tends to repress the extravagance of one, for the good of all. Conferences of the Presidents and consultations with the Treasurer of the Union suggest means of saving or making money, while prompt remittance and cash discounts form not a small feature of the improvements. Tradesmen know that they are dealing with a business organization, and not with those whose chief interest is the issue of a particular athletic struggle and whose recklessness in the employment of means is their chief business characteristic.

But the improvement has only just begun in undergraduate finances. They are not yet on a business basis; they are far from it. There is too little provision for the future; there is little or no aid from experience; there is the use of very large sums of money by those who do not know its value and who cannot, from their surroundings and their environment all their life, be expected to know its value.

Yale is very sensitive on the subject of undergraduate control of the affairs of undergraduates. The undergraduates altogether disapprove of graduate control. They want advice on the larger affairs and are generally perfectly willing to follow it, when it is sound. They are ready to be led; they don't want to be coerced. They will go to an extreme in resisting a change that takes any part of the control from them.

The general position is sound as a rule, but there is danger in carrying it too far. It is one thing to decide whether or not to enter into an athletic alliance with this or that university; it is quite another thing to buy in the cheapest market or to make the most favorable contract, with those who are making contracts from morn till eve, three hundred and thirteen days in the year. It may be proper that the choice of grounds and the method of disposing of tickets be decided by students. That would not prevent the use of the experience and judgment of a mature business man in arranging the terms of lease and the methods of fitting out the grounds from year to year.

And athletic managements are not the only things. Any enterprise that requires the handling of large sums of money, and the art of buying and selling at best advantage, calls for the aid of experience. The management of the University musical clubs, and of such an affair as the Junior Promenade would be immensely benefited by the services of a treasurer, who knew the situation perfectly, and who would at least have the right to advise as to the best means of securing the end in view.

It would not be necessary to grant large powers to such an official, who might act for all the various interests we have named. And there would be no necessity of materially curtailing the rights or powers of the direct representatives of the undergraduates. This would not be necessary in order to secure the benefits of experience and of a continuity of system.

We can not see why some move in this direction is not a necessity of the near future. People are tolerating less and less any system or institution that wastes money. The personnel of the various undergraduate managements have been unusually good in nearly all cases for a number of years, but the best men can not atone for an imperfect system.

The Bachelor of Arts, which has an accurate eye for the affairs of a university, has been looking around Yale and is again impressed with the folly of the supposed plan of removing all the buildings of the old Brick Row. "Even the beautiful Vanderbilt Hall," it truthfully says, "cannot take the place of old South Middle."

## Mr. Troup Wants Revenge.

[New Haven Union.]

The following letter has been sent to the president of Yale University: To the President and Faculty of Yale College:

Gentlemen—On the 24th day of September, 1896, at a public meeting upon the New Haven Green, the Hon. William J. Bryan of Nebraska, then candidate of the Democratic party for President of the United States, was present and attempted to address the citizens of Connecticut.

It is a matter to be regretted that a body of Yale students attending said meeting became disturbers of the public peace, and by riotous and offensive conduct, interfered with the right of free speech and openly insulted the speaker. It is unnecessary to allege more specifically, facts which were given national notoriety through the public press.

We believe that slight investigation will disclose the fact that the misconduct referred to was the result of deliberate preparation and premeditation, and that the outrage was planned in one of the saloons of the city habitually frequented by the young "gentlemen" under your charge.

We refrained from calling your attention to the matter during the continuance of the campaign, fearing that agitation concerning it might encourage active resentment on the part of persons aggrieved by the insult which had been perpetrated, and tend to promote further and more serious breaches of the peace.

We have noticed with surprise that no action on your part has been taken, and that no expressions of disapproval even, has been made public by the officials of the College.

Believing that continued silence and inactivity on your part might be interpreted as indicating your approval of the conduct of the students under your charge, we now bring the matter to your attention, trusting that such action will be taken as is consistent with your duty as gentlemen and officers of the College.

Very respectfully yours,

ALEXANDER TROUP,  
Chairman Dem. State Com.

## Something Ought to be Done.

[Mr. Bromley in New York Tribune.]

President Dwight is in Europe, but even in his absence something certainly ought to be done, if only to show an appreciation of Mr. Troup's deep interest in University affairs. Moreover, Mr. Troup may not always be in so amiable a mood as he appears in this communication. Indeed, in an interview subsequent to the publication he is reported to have said that "if the decision of the Faculty was not satisfactory, he would present the matter before the next meeting of the Central Committee of his party with a view of having it brought up in the courts." What the effect of that would be no man can tell. It presents to the Faculty a very serious question. And we venture to express the hope that the Faculty will not as a body answer Mr. Troup in the language of that eminent Democratic statesman, the Hon. Roger Q. Mills, who, when addressing a New Haven audience some years ago, in reply to a respectful question from one of his auditors, answered promptly: "Oh, go soak your head!" That wouldn't be right.

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Catalogue on Application.

The Yale Alumni Association of Brooklyn and Long Island are preparing to publish a directory of the Alumni living in Brooklyn and Long Island. The work is to be in charge of Mr. John K. Creevey, '66, Mr. Edward N. Loomis, '91, and Hubert E. Rogers.

## THE BACHELOR OF ARTS

NOVEMBER

On President Eliot's Chautauquan Address.

Robert Browning, John Jay Chapman.

A Study in Faust,

A. Cookman Roberts.

Specimens of Alumni Wit.

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