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THE FOUR YEAR PETITION.

It is a very large question that has been raised by the undergraduate petition for a lengthening of the Scientific School course. It is probably easier to see the arguments for this change than to realize the force of circumstances and even theory against it. It has a reasonable sound that Yale, who has stood so stoutly for conservative principles of education, for the safe building of the foundations, before the practical specialty has been attempted, should make her Scientific School course altogether consistent with the spirit of the college.

It is, of course, true, that an education is more thorough in four years than in three, and it seems to be generally admitted that in the principal courses of the School the fourth year is necessary for the completion of the training and is either taken in graduate work or is to be wrung out of practical life afterward. Such a magnificent example of methods of scientific education as that offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology throws its weight of influence for the change.

It is also perfectly easy to see with what force the undergraduate mind is moved and the graduate mind, too, when the thought of perfect harmony with the Academic Department in all class and University affairs is possible. It would add undoubtedly greatly to the already strong esprit de corps of Yale.

It is perhaps unnecessary to go into the other side of the question. Men in power know more about this than any outsiders can. It is something, that the School on its present system is so eminently successful. There is no denying this fact. The burden of proof rests with those who desire this change. It is also pertinent to remark that the tendency in the educational world now is toward an abbreviation of the period of general training. Harvard's experiment in this line and the opportunity at Columbia to make a year in one of the professional schools count in securing the B. A. degree, and other similar efforts, indicate that there is a very strong pressure from one source or another for the shorter period for general training.

It must also not be forgotten that the Scientific School has recently raised its requirements so that it takes practical-

ly a year more of preparation to enter it. This connects with the preceding point.

This discussion does not touch the enormous practical difficulties in the way of change, and yet it does not seem wise to consider this too much at present. If it is for the best interest of the School to have a four year's course, the stand, of course, should be boldly taken for it now with faith and zeal in the securing of means. There is no question that if such a step should be taken, the friends of the Scientific School would rally to its assistance. It has a magnificent record and a great prestige.

THE "LIT" AND COURANT.

Why don't the Yale Literary Magazine and the Yale Courant join fortunes and forces? This seems the only satisfactory way out of the difficulties of interference and overlapping that increase as the papers develop. Something more or less radical should be done. You can not put the Courant back where it was. It would then surely die. It was tolerated in the olden days, (of course in some of the olden days it was very fine) because it was here, having been here before, and presumably with some reason for being. This last year it cut those holy moorings of tradition, by which frail bark of doubtful utility are held safely here, and actually began to sail for itself. It has not sailed in a manner pleasing to the Chap Book—Alack and Alas!—but it has sailed and been a visible, moving and often most graceful and pleasing object on the horizon of college letters and life. Now it must keep going. Shall it continue to tack across the track of the "Lit," but ever keeping near the course of the venerable one, and the more so as the "Lit" runs up topsail and shakes out her spinaker now and then?

Or shall it be off to another point of compass, sailing by other charts? But where else and how else? The more like the "Lit," the better; the more like the "Lit," the worse. The more "Lit" editors on the Courant Board, the better; the more "Lit" editors on the Courant Board, the worse.

Why don't they sail together, and stop cutting across each other's bows? Make one swift and graceful cruiser (if we may shift figures a bit), instead of one battleship and one torpedo boat. Keep a good band on the deck, colors all flying and brass of a navy hue, but keep up the fire from the ten-inch guns.

YALE STUDENTS AND A PRIZE FIGHT.

The far-fetched extravaganza of a letter of well wishing to a prize fighter, signed by a considerable company of students bearing some of the best names of the Junior Class, is the stupidest break we have ever known College men to make. It isn't funny, although, of course, meant to be. A foolish, thoughtless act as it is, of no importance in itself, it nevertheless involves the good name of the College, and of the Junior Class. If this is denied, then the highly prized solidarity of Yale life is denied.

There is no escaping the conclusion that Yale will get, as the result of this letter, an increased reputation as a sports' paradise.

The sending of the flag was a good deal worse than the sending of the letter. Nothing can excuse or extenuate that act. Perhaps all the signers weren't participants in it. From a decent standpoint of College loyalty, it was an act of treason.

We do not know, at this writing, what may be done in the way of repudiation of the act. But the mischief has been done. In another issue we shall comment on the reenforcement, by this incident, of the demand for some protection of the great majority against the small minority.

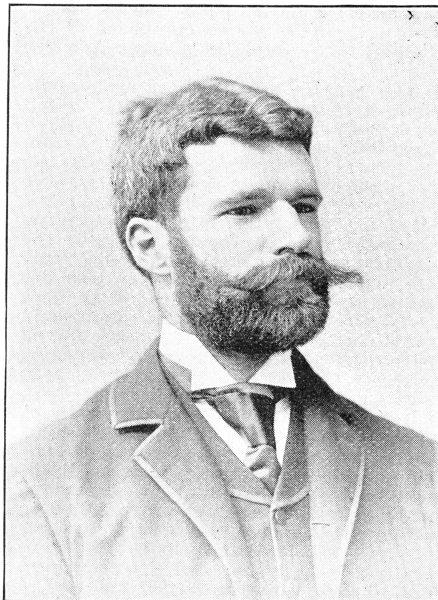
PROFESSORS SEYMOUR AND BEERS' STATEMENTS.

It is not necessary to ask readers to notice what the Weekly has to offer from Professor Beers and Professor Seymour in this issue in regard to the present equipment and needs and possibilities of their respective departments. These departments have become particularly interesting because Mr. Lampson was so generous to them in his will, and it is now the reasonable and lively hope of the friends of Yale that they shall be put on a basis which will mean for the student at Yale as large opportunities along these lines as he can find anywhere. Professor Seymour very generously concedes the need to be greatest in the Latin Department. If the suggestion which he has made or similar ones can be carried out, Yale will be without a peer in opportunities for classical study.

Some people, we have no doubt, will be surprised at some of the very frank statements made by Professor Beers as to his idea of the proper teaching of English Literature. We doubt not there will be a very general endorsement of the plan to use the funds available to the English Department under the Lampson will in increasing the force in the teaching of rhetoric. The sad fact needs no reiteration that the average college bred man secures, strictly from his college course, only the most pathetic idea of how to speak and to write the English language. Of the enormous amount of severe labor required in this department, Professor Beers writes graphically. It should be an added endorsement for the development of the Rhetorical Department that it has so far been conducted with such admitted skill and success.

Prof. Cameron to Leave Yale.

It has just been made public that Professor A. Guyot Cameron has resigned his position as Assistant Professor of French in the Sheffield Scientific School, and will leave the University at the end of the college year. His reasons for this step are not known, and when interviewed, Professor Cameron preferred not to discuss the matter, but merely to confirm the report.



PROFESSOR A. G. CAMERON.

Professor Cameron came to Yale six years ago as Assistant Professor of French in the Sheffield Scientific School,

Bachelor of Arts

FOR COLLEGE MEN.

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which position he has held ever since. His resignation will be deeply regretted by the students, as Mr. Cameron was one of the most popular instructors in the Scientific School and was voted to the honor of most popular professor by the class of '95S.

He was graduated from Princeton in 1886, and was awarded the degree of Ph.D. at that University, later. He also took the degree of M.A. at a European university.

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LIABILITIES	160,494,410
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