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INAUGURATION INVITATION TO GRADUATES.

The officers of the University in charge of the Inauguration of President Hadley, which occurs Wednesday, October 18th, particularly desire that all alumni understand that, by virtue of their graduation, they are the guests of the University at the Inauguration proceedings. Invitations have been issued to a special list of officers of other universities and to some others whose presence is desired on account of some special circumstance, but it is expected that all alumni, who can attend, will be on hand, and the more there are, the better it will be. They will, as usual enter the Chapel in the order of graduation and have seats on the floor. They are also invited to the President's reception in the Art School from five to seven in the afternoon. The collation will be served at six o'clock and the arrangements therefor are on a practical basis, as well as satisfactory in other respects. As already announced, the procession to the Chapel will form at Dwight Hall, where guests are invited at two o'clock. The exercises begin at Battell Chapel at three o'clock.

THE GREAT GIFTS TO HARVARD.

"We shall receive," said President Eliot, at the Harvard Alumni Dinner at the last Commencement, "in cash gifts this year, not counting some of the prospects which I have mentioned, more than \$1,250,000. And similar was the addition made last year to the endowment of the University. The Corporation will only say to you and to the community 'Keep right on, keep right on,' for you may be assured that every dollar of these great gifts can be made important use of for the University and for the furtherance of the highest interests of the American community."

Anyone should be glad to hear such a report from Harvard and there should be no envy in the feelings of one who is truly interested in the cause of American education. It is, at the same time, quite appropriate to remind the sons and friends of Yale that these gifts have come to Harvard, not under the influence of any special event or special campaign, but in the usual course of events. Yet the Yale Bi-centennial Fund last Commencement, after several months of very hard campaign all over the country, reached less than half a million dollars. Yale and her friends do not yet fully realize what will be required for the work which is ahead. It is not a question of competition with any other institution. It is a question of meeting

a peculiar opportunity that lies before a peculiar American institution. President Eliot was right in saying that every dollar of the great gifts that come to Harvard could be made immediate use of for the University and for the furtherance of the highest interests of the American community. Do not we of Yale believe at least as much as that concerning our University?

A YALE BENEFACTOR.

In fullness of time the University will, in some formal and fitting way, make record, with sincere expression of keen regret, of the death of Cornelius Vanderbilt, who so generously gave to Yale. It is proper now to point to the perfection and the academic dignity of the gift, by which he made memorial here of a well loved son. He was glad to build for this memorial where a building was desired by the Administration. He made no money offer, but placed the work in the hands of the best of architects and builders and bade them make their work perfect. No one knows the cost of the Hall. The giver did not care to have any one measure in coin his gift to the memory of his son and to Yale. But when it was complete, there was not upon the campus of any college, the world over, a building more perfect of its kind, more academic, more dignifying. And in humbler ways and after the same full measure of generosity, this friend gave to Yale and aided her. Cornelius Vanderbilt's record here seems very characteristic of the man, of which the world has learned so many good things since his passing from it a few weeks ago.

THE CHANGE AT COMMONS.

The change in the system of service at the Yale University Dining Hall was announced last week and the reasons given for it and the arguments against it were set down at considerable length. The matter is important enough for fullest consideration. A step which reduces the opportunities for self-support at Yale is one that ought to be challenged and refused endorsement unless it can give a very satisfactory account of itself.

It will, we think, go without saying, that the College authorities have not taken this step without considering all the questions involved, with a great deal of care. It cannot be denied that they have put off the change as long as they thought possible and have tried every resource which they saw before them to preserve the old system. It is not known just who the officers are who finally decide these matters. Mr. Tilson, the steward, does not have authority in such questions, but is only supposed to report facts. Mr. Farnam, the Treasurer of the University, is, of course, much interested, as the expenses of the Dining Hall are paid by, and its receipts turned over to, the Treasury Department. A committee, however, of the Faculty, acts with the Treasurer in such important matters as this, and it is on their vote that the change has been made. Mr. Tilson, the steward of the Commons, who carried himself through College by different methods of self-support, has tried hard to carry out the system which he found in operation when he took Commons four years ago. That much we know, and we are also sure that neither the Treasurer nor those who act with him have been anything but sorry to take the new step.

The question of the possibility of retaining the student waiters is a question of method of management, not alone of the steward, but of the organized system under which Commons is conducted. If any criticism can fairly be brought

to bear on the method, it seems to us that it rests with that organization. In the first place, we do not believe that the interests of the students have been well represented by those who have been supposed to act for them on the committees. It must have been a fact known to them that service was unsatisfactory and that the possibility of the change to professional waiters was continually before the authorities as an unwelcome necessity. That the steward was attempting to secure the coöperation of the waiters in retaining the old system, and that he did not seem to be successful in his efforts, must have been also known to them. As representing the student interest they represented the interests of those who waited, or, in other words, of the self-supporting class at Yale, and they ought to have taken it upon themselves to coöperate with the authorities in such methods as would have given the present system its best and final test.

We confess that we doubt that it has been given all the test which it needs. Methods of discipline have been unpopular. The discharge of student waiters has resulted in unpleasant discussions and a good deal of hard talk about the management of Commons, and the trend of management has been away from measures of this kind. We do not wonder that the steward himself did not desire to place the thing on a basis of military discipline without the very warm coöperation of all involved. If he had done this, he would not only have exposed himself to a storm of criticism, but probably would have so failed of support, that the effect on the system at the end would have been to make it worse.

Of course, above the student committee, as well as above the Steward, are the University authorities. We say, as we have said before, that we believe they have made the hardest and most sincere efforts to preserve the opportunity of self-support to students in waiting, and, at the same time, to make sure of the efficiency of the whole. But it still seems to us that, as in so many other things in Yale, there has been an unwillingness to try the heroic in order to save something that is worth saving. The committee of students and of Faculty, who would have dared to set up an arbitrary iron-clad system of hours and rules of service, and, with the coöperation of competent supervisors, carried it out with all the stringency of football training or military life, would have had a very unpleasant task, but would have been doing a very good work for Yale. We believe that the condition of things of the past year or more ought not to have continued, but we confess that we are not satisfied that it was impossible to retain the student waiters.

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An Essay on Blanket Tossing.

[From the editorial columns of Silver & Gold, of Colorado University.]

The past week has found the University wrought up over the blanket tossing events of last Saturday night. The President has been intentionally or accidentally misinformed and seen fit to act in the matter. A prospective student has left the University. The question in this instance has been divided under two heads. First, the broader subject of hazing, as exemplified by blanket-tossing, and naturally growing out of this the question of entering private houses, in the search for Freshmen, against the will of the inmates. The latter part is easily disposed of. In no case have upper classmen entered a private house contrary to the express wish of its inhabitants.

As for blanket tossing, it is the mildest possible form of hazing, if it be rightly so called. Hazing to many people is inseparably linked with cruelty. It walks hand in hand with the bully and the coward. Exulting in a superiority of numbers, it tramples down personal feeling and destroys self respect. There was no trace of this spirit to be found Saturday night. Blanket tossing in itself would hardly hurt a confirmed invalid. But even while recognizing this fact, the greatest care was taken that no one physically weak should be disturbed. At the first sign of this custom developing into rowdiness should be stamped out; if it should ever begin to bring out the baser nature of those taking part, then it is that it should fall under the ban of the University.

Then again it is argued that it is a poor way to receive a new comrade, who, in seeking a higher education, chances to cast his lot with us. Obstacles, trials and sorrow, together with happiness, make the more perfect man. When knighthood was in its flower the young novice guarded carefully, through the long time between the setting and rising sun, the armor which he was to don as the sign of his knighthood. The student passes a hard examination before he receives his credits. The citizen is declared physically capable before he is admitted as a soldier. And the Freshman who passes manfully through the ordeal of the blanket feels that he is a part of the University and grasps the hand of an upper classman with a fellow feeling which says "I too have been there."

University Council.

The plan of carrying on a good deal of the Government of the University by plan of Council, which was announced in the Commencement issue of the WEEKLY, has not been since any more definitely elaborated. It may be said, however, that the Council will consist of the Deans and other representatives of the several Faculties concerned.

Professor Samuel Howell of Melbourne University, Australia, Secretary of Students Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, was a visitor in New Haven during August, and went through the more important buildings here.

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