

# The Student Record.

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## ROMAN EDUCATION.

THE ROMANS were a highly religious and practical people. Their highest aim was to be devoted members of the Roman State, over whose destinies presided Jupiter, the best and greatest of the gods. If, through their eloquence or power of arms, their State had prospered and their little farm had furnished enough for their frugal board, with a lamb to spare for their gods, they were content. The moral ideals that they kept constantly before themselves were integrity, dignity and manly virtue. If a man was praised, he was said to be good, upright and one who was honorable—the attentive father of his household.

For such a life as this the children were usually trained at home, for the predominating feature in their education was the mother's influence. She became their constant companion until the boys reached manhood or the girls wedded. Thus, she not only moulded their character, but carefully watched that their language be correct and refined. Cicero tells how the Gracchi, two patriotic statesmen, were brought up, not only in the lap, but also in the language of their mother, Cornelia, and how other women, choice in their use of language, fashioned the lisping lips of future statesmen. The father imparted a slight knowledge to his sons and, if he were a tiller of the soil, taught them to work by his side and to swim, ride and to defend themselves with fists and weapons.

The sons of Senators, however, once enjoyed an advantage in the line of statesmanship, that others did not possess. Each Senator had the right to take his young son with him into the Senate house, that he might learn in his early days how the affairs of the commonwealth were managed.

Some of the children, however, in addition to the home training, received an elementary education in private schools, for in the days of the wicked Appius Claudius, the fair maiden Virginia was passing through the market place, on her way to school, when the tragedy so vividly portrayed by Macauley took place.

Such was the education of children in the early period of Rome, bearing from first to last the stamp of the parents' influence. But about 150 years before the Christian era, Rome extended her arms beyond Italy and laid hold on the treasures of the East, and appropriated vices as well as virtues. There became a rage, on all sides, for what was Grecian. The Greek system of education, which aimed at the symmetrical development of the whole man was adopted with some changes, but with it the custom of placing the entire bringing up of the children in the hands of some Greek nurse and of a slave or two who were drunken or unfit for any important service. These, said one of their own historians, filled the tender and untrained minds of their charges with their stories and errors, for not a slave in the whole house cared what he said or did before his young master. So, while the Roman youth now began to receive a more thorough intellectual development, his moral being became so dwarfed and corrupted that in time the family relations were destroyed and with them the strongest pillar of the State. At about seven years of age, when the child could understand intelligently, he was taken from the nurse and given into the care of a pedagogue, likewise a Greek or foreign slave. The pedagogues were not teachers. It was their duty to train the boys in morals and manners and give them a practical knowledge of Greek which was considered necessary as preparatory to entering upon the school duties. They had, however, no real education and were morally worthless. Their chief concern seemed to be to teach their young masters table manners and to properly throw the cloak around the left shoulder.

Unless the parents were quite wealthy or preferred to have their children instructed at home, the pedagogues took them first to the elementary schools and waited for them until their lessons were over. These were private establishments run by teachers who were not celebrated for their humanity. Blows were very common and the teachers are represented as noisy and flogging. Martial, a Roman satirist, thus addresses one: "What have you to do with us? You rascally school teacher hated by the boys and girls. The crested cocks have not yet broken the silence and you are already making a thundering noise with your savage growling and blows." From other sources, as well as this, we learn that the



schools opened before daylight, but after a time a law was passed which put a stop to this nuisance. The little children were tempted to learn to read by having ivory letters put into their hands that they might learn how to form words. If the task were too irksome, they were enticed to further effort, by the kinder teachers, by the gift of sweet meats. As soon as reading was acquired, they began to learn by heart. Distinct pronunciation was gained by practicing difficult combinations of sounds. At first their reading books were the Laws of the XII Tables, which might be compared with the Ten Commandments as a reading exercise. Afterwards they read the writings of the Latin authors, especially the poets. Writing was learned by following with the stilus, a sharp pencil-like piece of metal, forms of letters which had been engraved on a tablet of wood. After the letters could be traced readily a waxen tablet was used, for parchment and paper were far too expensive materials to be used for exercises and copies. This tablet was similar in size and shape to our small slates. It was provided with a slight raised rim about the margin so that the enclosed surface which was coated with a layer of wax would not rub if the tablet were placed on its face. On this surface writing or figuring was done with the pointed end of the stilus, the other end was flattened so that it could be used to rub the wax back over a word or line in which there was an error.

A good portion of the time was spent on arithmetic. By means of his tablet the pupil was taught to perform the easier operations in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The school year began in March, their first month, and in Rome probably continued nearly the entire year, with the exception of two short vacations in the Winter and Spring. Their Thanksgiving vacation occurred in December, when they were granted at first three days, then an entire week, to join in the festivities in honor of Saturn, their harvest god. The other vacation came in March, when the tuition for the year was paid and they were given a respite of five days in honor of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, at whose feet they had so tearfully and laboriously learned during the year. In the country schools the tuition was paid monthly and the pupils were given a Summer vacation of four months so that they might assist their parents during the olive and grape season.

After the boy had passed through the elementary school, he was promoted to the grammar school. Here two courses were given, one leading to the other. The preliminary course treated of Greek and Latin grammar, with special reference to the declensions, conjugations, and rules of syntax. Selections from the poets were read understandingly, attention being paid to pronunciation. Thus the way to the second course was opened. Here was developed a literary and critical taste. Homer, Virgil, Horace and other authors were studied much as they

are in school to-day. The fables of Æsop were recited and the pupils were obliged to paraphrase them. Compositions and essays, also, were required on such subjects as Hannibal's Passage of the Alps and "Was Crates, the philosopher, right when, having met an ignorant boy, he administered a beating to his teacher?" Once a month a contest was held, which consisted of reading essays and delivering orations in the presence of parents. The pupil performing the best was given first rank until the next contest came round. In connection with these literary studies, the scholars were taught drawing, higher arithmetic, geometry, astronomy and music, which was restricted merely to songs of heroes and a knowledge of its principles. These embraced the liberal arts. Girls as well as boys took up these studies at school or under a tutor at home. Many went no farther than this and if they were of the proper age, about sixteen, they took up the duties of citizenship and began life in earnest. To the sons of the best families, three careers were open—the judicial, the military and that of a State official. If they were weary of school they could obtain an appointment with some general and go off on a foreign campaign as lieutenants or staff officers; or if they aspired to office they could obtain a clerkship in the government offices at Rome or in the provinces. Those, however, that wished to become lawyers and statesmen, or get a complete education, took another step, which was to visit the lecture room or the rhetorician or professor of oratory. This we may call their professional school, for it has a strong resemblance to our law schools, where students are trained in oratory and the theories of law. Here the rhetoricians undertook to enable the orator to speak on any subject convincingly, using choicest language and to the delight of the hearers. In this they succeeded, for orators of high reputation put themselves under training. In the study of law they discussed the technical questions, such as the following: "How far should a lawyer believe his witness?" "It is forbidden to a stranger to mount the rampart. A stranger mounts it, but only to help the citizens in repelling their enemies. Has he broken the law?" After completing his studies here, the young lawyer attached himself to some learned statesman, or, as we should say to-day, entered a law office that he might gain experience in carrying on a practice for himself.

During all these years of intellectual training, athletics formed a part of the boys' daily pastime. Although daily physical exercise, under a competent master, was not made compulsory, as in Greece, and no gymnasium was provided, the youth upheld athletic sports by their own enthusiasm and energy. They met on the campus and vied with each other in leaping, wrestling, boxing, throwing the spear and drilling like cavalrymen on fiery steeds. One sport, unknown to us, was the hurling of the discus. This was a large, round disc of metal, which they threw as far as they could. Ball was popular among them, even after they grew into manhood. A plunge into the Tiber completed the day's sports.



## Campus.

The cadets have been drilling by trumpet signals.

John Dunsden, an ex-student, has returned to the 'Varsity.

It has been rumored that there will be no Spring vacation.

A number of new books were added to the library last month.

The Senior Mines are making an ore concentrator for the quartz mill.

Lieutenant Neall has been giving the Seniors lectures on Napoleon's campaigns.

James Egan was called to Virginia City last week to attend the funeral of his aunt.

The RECORD is indebted to Professor Church for the daily receipt of college papers.

The game between the college nine and a picked nine was won by the former. Score, 5 to 3.

At a meeting of the Board of Regents, held February 2d, plans for a dormitory were ordered.

Col. H. B. Maxon has very kindly offered the Surveying class the use of a Gurley solar transit.

Mrs. Emery delivered an interesting lecture on "Individuality," in General Assembly, last Friday.

Miss Edna McDowell, ex-Normal, died at her home in Oroville, Butte county Cal., on the 12th instant.

Rumor has it that a glee club has been organized among the cadets. It is to be hoped that the rumor is true.

The Practical Mechanics have just completed some revolving frames for the botanical display at the Mid-winter Fair.

At the last meeting of the Board of Regents it was decided that a twenty-inch water jacket smelter be added to the Mining Department.

Fredrick Stadtmuller, '92, is in charge of the Chemical Department of the Experiment Station during the absence of Professor Wilson.

The Class of '96, in Practical Mechanics, received a silver medal for their work in carpentry which was displayed at the State Fair last Fall.

A week ago last Saturday evening about twenty of the cadets attended an entertainment in Verdi. They report having had a good time.

The address delivered by Professor Jackson in Virginia City was well received. Favorable comments are heard on every hand concerning it.

A few were glad,  
Some were sad,  
But a big crowd mad,  
At the the N. S. U. on Valentine's day.

Thomas Butterly, Com. '91, is pursuing a special course of study at the 'Varsity. He will take an examination for West Point the first of next month.

Upon making the first clean-up in the quartz mill it was found that nearly ninety-seven per cent. of the gold and silver contained in the ore was obtained. This speaks well for the work done.

It is thought the Professor of English will need a corps of assistants the coming week. One of the subjects for Freshman essays is, "Good Americans," and the young patriots threaten to submerge the Professor with "Fourth of July orations."

Lieutenant Neall's term of office as Military Instructor of the University will expire the first of next November. The following officers have applied for the position: 1st Lieutenant Ducat, 24th Infantry, Fort Bayard, New Mexico; 1st Lieutenant Hatch, 18th Infantry, Fort Ringgold, Texas; 2d Lieutenant Haan, 5th Artillery, Presidio, San Francisco; 2d Lieutenant Stockle, 9th Cavalry. Lieutenant Stockle has, since making application, been detailed as Military Instructor at Pullman, Washington.

### INTERVIEW WITH A PIUTE CHIEF.



REPRESENTATIVE of the football team interviewed Johnson Sides, the U. S. Indian Peacemaker, to see what the prospects were of getting a game of football with some of the Piute braves. As usual, Johnson seemed well informed on the topic introduced. In the course of the interview he said, "My people once thirsted for conflict. They were willing to give up their lives for sweethearts and wives. They were willing to be laid to rest beneath the cottonwood in the valley, to be mourned over by darkeyed gazelles, whose general appearance would not kill vegetation. Bnt now how changed." Here the old man's voice faltered. "Now our braves thirst to fill their hides with liquid damnation. Liquid delerium tremens has degraded our ranks until we are about as unpopular as the Codfish. They have lost their stately style. The maidens and matrons of our tribe are no longer beautiful. They have ruined their complexion with fat pork and whisky. They refuse to carry our burdens as in the days of yore."

The recollections of the past were deeply affecting the old warrior, so we decided to say no more about football, and left Johnson alone with his meditations on the golden days of the Piutes, which have fled, never to return.

A PLAYER.



## THE STUDENT RECORD

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## Editorial Comment.

THE illustrated edition of the RECORD, which was to be issued February 15th, we regret to say, cannot appear on that date. The plates from which the electrotypes were to be made were broken in transit to Chicago, and new ones had to be forwarded to supply their place.

\* \* \* \*

SUPERINTENDENT BROWN, of the Mechanical Department, has, with his characteristic foresight, secured the Nevada building of the Midwinter Fair for the University. His proposition, that the amount necessary to meet the cost of transportation be raised by subscription among the faculty and students, meets with general favor. The Adelphi Society manifested its approval of the movement by promptly subscribing seventy-five dollars. The Athletic Society will, in all probability, give a like amount. The building will be devoted to the use of the different student organizations, among which are the societies just mentioned. A gymnasium and society hall have long been needed and there is much rejoicing among the students at the prospect of these wants being soon supplied.

\* \* \* \*

MONTHS ago, when we were very young as college journalists and the novelty of a new enterprise lent enchantment to many enthusiastic supporters, we received, from the students, our last contribution. Patiently have we awaited the fulfillment of promises then given. A ragged-edged suspicion has lately been working its way into the grey matter of our cranium that faith has not been kept with the RECORD. Whether or not the editorial staff of other college journals receives as little support as that given us we cannot say. We conclude,

however, that no college paper can live without the support of the school that it represents.

On behalf of the business staff, we would say that contributions for the RECORD will be thankfully received and duly acknowledged.

\* \* \* \*

WE do not wish to give the impression that the students of the U. N. are wanting, in all respects, in devotion to the RECORD. We note with satisfaction the loyalty of the greater number to the unwritten law, "Patronize those who patronize your paper." We believe that they have, as a rule, done this without any suggestions from us. However, let any who have been at fault in this matter read carefully the advertising columns of our paper and remember that "one good turn deserves another." The persons who advertise in the RECORD are enterprising business men, true friends of the University and deserve the patronage of all.

\* \* \* \*

FOR wise reasons we would recommend our students to organize class societies or clubs. While the larger organizations, such as college literary societies, aid them in the acquirement of general knowledge, these minor societies would be useful in fitting them for their chosen calling. For instance, students who purpose following mining engineering should organize a club that would meet from time to time to discuss the methods recommended by specialists in this line of work. In the same way those who have chosen literary pursuits as their life work should organize and meet regularly to discuss men and methods in this calling.

Some of the students have formed a club similar to the one described. While we depreciate the object they have in view, we must say they are pursuing a course that will aid them materially in gaining proficiency in their chosen art (?). If students with nobler aims will organize for mutual improvement along the specific lines which they purpose following, they will reap wide and lasting benefit as a result.

\* \* \* \*

WE are pleased to observe the willingness with which the Adelphi Society voted money for the transportation of the Nevada building. This action speaks volume as to the growth of the college spirit.



## Reciprocities.

—Among our exchanges this week we welcome *Talking Leave*, Methern, Mass.

—The Junior class at Stanford will publish an annual to be called the *Stanford Quad*.

—The new catalogue just issued by Yale credits that institution with 3,021 students.

—Oberlin has received the mathematical books of the German exhibit at the World's Fair.

—The University of Pennsylvania has 2,175 students and 277 professors, lecturers and instructors.

—The February number of *The Century* contains an interesting article on football by Walter Camp.

—From the tone of our exchanges we would infer that this year bids fair to be one of marked advancement in all the colleges.

—Surh Beung Kin is the second Korean to enter an American college as a student. He has entered Roanoke College, Virginia, and the other is in the University of Pennsylvania.—*Ex.*

—We can stand the girl with suspenders,  
Stiff shirt front and cravat;  
But heavenly powers preserve us  
From the girl with the crooked hat.

—*Ex.*

—The plan of college government in the last few years has met with many changes. In many of our leading universities the under-graduates are permitted to have a part in the forming and enforcing rules of discipline.—*Ex.*

—Yale, Harvard, Brown, Princeton, Leland Stanford, Cornell, University of Wisconsin and University of Michigan, now publish daily papers, and the University of Pennsylvania will begin the publication of one soon.—*Ex.*

—At the recent dinner of the New York Alumni of Princeton, loving cups of solid silver were presented to the members of the football team, and silver match-boxes to the substitutes. King received them and responded to the presentation speech.

—A tom-cat sat on an old hay-rack,  
An sang to his love on the fence;  
A Soph stole up with a gunny-sack,  
An she hasn't heard tommy sing since.

—The Board of Directors of the University of Wisconsin Athletic Association will send out letters to all students, Alumni, members of the faculty and business men of Madison, asking them to contribute twenty-five cents each to help the association out of its financial straits.

—The action of the students of Vanderbilt University in expelling two of their number for cheating in examinations, is to be commended. It is such prompt action in dealing with those who act unfairly in their exams that causes a college to be looked up to and the students respected.

—England, with a population of 26,000,000, had under 5,500 students at her universities in 1882. Germany, with a population of 45,250,000, had over 24,000 university students. That same year the United States, with a population of 60,000,000, had 66,437 students in colleges, 4,921 in schools of theory, 3,079 in law schools, and 15,151 in medical schools; total 89,588.

Now she pulls her father's whiskers,  
She's too young to plead and beg.  
But wait until she grows up  
Then she'll pull her papa's leg.

—*Philadelphia Call.*

—It has just been announced that a local organization was formed in the University a few weeks ago under the name of the Alpha Upsilon fraternity. Its object will be the cultivation of the mental, moral and social qualities of its members. One of the chief features of the chapter will be literary culture. The organization will be run on the plan of a chartered fraternity, as it is the intention to petition one of the oldest and most prominent fraternities of the East—Delta Epsilon. Meanwhile the policy of the local organization will resemble that of the D. U. fraternity.—*Palo Alto.*

—In speaking of the practice of cheating in examination and the various means used by the different colleges and universities to break up the practice, *The Cadet* says: "We believe that the West Point manner of conducting examinations wholly without oversight, the student's signature at the end being guarantee that the paper was written entirely by himself, is the best method, and that it not only eliminates the habit of cheating, but raises the general standard of honor among students. The man who cheats with the eye of a professor constantly over him has perhaps a mistaken sense of honor, but he who cheats when put squarely upon his word of honor should not be tolerated among any set of gentlemen."

—Manager Denman's account of the financial standing of the football department of athletics in the University of California, shows the game to be an expensive luxury, and brings out from the committee investigating the account and the \$1,100 deficit a vigorous protest against the unmethodical way in which football has been carried on and the suggestion that a definite system be worked out. The Alumni feel interested in the matter, and in order that the policy pursued, both in financial affairs and the system of coaching, shall be definite three of the Alumni—Professor George C. Edwards, Walter Henry and Warren Olney—have been appointed an advisory board to the football manager and captain.



## Bits of Fun.

### A Senior's Lament.

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak  
and weary,

Over many an olden billhead-relics of the days of yore,  
While I pondered, thinking sadly of the bills I paid so  
badly,

Someone came up rapping madly on my locked and  
bolted door.

"'Tis some creditor," I muttered, knocking down my  
chamber door.

Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember, 'twas the 15th of November,  
And each owed for dying ember, wrought its ghost  
upon the floor;

Eagerly I wished the morrow so I could go and borrow  
From my friends—much to their sorrow—who consid-  
ered me a bore,

From the friends who had such boodle, who'll be paid  
Ah, nevermore!

Suddenly my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no  
longer.

"Sir," said I, "or madman, truly your forgiveness I  
implore;

But the fact is, I was snoozing off the sad effects of booz-  
ing,

And I did not hear you." Here I opened wide the  
door—

'Twas the tailor as of yore.

Lives of rich men all remind me  
I can make my memory blest,  
If no will I leave behind me  
For my children to contest.

—Hallo.

He had written a neat little poem,  
But when he recited the verse  
His room-mate climbed upon his wishbone,  
And they carried him off in a hearse.

W. R. C. in *Wrinkle*.

"You ain't in it," has at last gone under,  
For that expression has been lost in the thunder  
Of the small boy's "You're around the corner."

—R.

What's the difference between a girl and a messenger  
boy? One's a female and the other's a fee-male.

A little old man from the west  
Wore his watch in the back of his vest,  
"For," said he, "'tis sublime,  
Ne'er to be behind time,  
Though the method is awkward, at best."

—Cynic.

Professor—What's a stratum!

Student—A layer.

Professor—Give an example.

Student—A hen.

When one of the new students moves up to the dormi-  
tory the place will be filled with Bliss.

The *University Courier* has a strong editorial on the  
question, "Are they worth the candle." This is a sub-  
ject which requires serious consideration, and on that  
each and every publication must answer for itself. When  
all matter that is trivial and irrelevant is excluded  
and when a true interest is awakened among the stu-  
dents, then and then only, is the college press what it  
ought to be.—*Occident*.

C. Coleman has removed his barber shop to more com-  
modious quarters, corner of Virginia street and Commer-  
cial Row, next to W. O. H. Martin, where he will be  
pleased to have his customers and the public generally  
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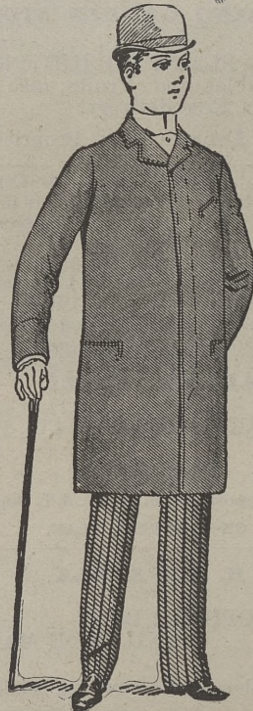
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