

and cannot be fully enough developed in the line of literature and philosophy so that they can devote enough thought to an author to form an estimate of him. Then again, when one's mind is well developed and we have our own individual opinions it is strengthening to read those of others. But for students who must think for themselves, if they will obtain one of the first objects of college training, to take passively the opinions of others where they should form their own, is of the nature of mental suicide. We are aware that this is an underestimate of our mental capabilities. There is for most of us a possibility of originality in many lines. What has been said before must be re-presented, revived by the particular individual and original method of consideration, which every one has to a certain extent, because he is different from others. There must be in future times new philosophers, new creeds, not that we shall find any new ultimate truths, but these truths must be applied to new methods of life. New and broader conceptions must be attained, new generalizations formed; but not to include all this broad field of opportunity for this originality. Still the field of literary and philosophical criticism lies open, a field for absolute originality for all.

IS there a color line in Oberlin? Much has been said, much written, during the past year about the color line in Oberlin. The outside world has been told in articles written to various papers, that Oberlin is no longer the Oberlin of the founders; that she has repudiated her history; that she has become as radical a defender of race distinctions as she was formerly an opposer. It is for the purpose of stating the true position of the case that this article is written. In the first place a distinction must be made between Oberlin college, as an institution, and the students, as individuals. The principles upon which the institution was founded and maintained pervade the institution to-day the same as they did fifty years ago.

Founded, that men and women of small means might get a liberal education, she is the same to-day. Founded that woman might have the

same privileges in education as man, she is the same to-day. Founded that men of all nations might obtain an education on equal footing regardless of color, she is the same to-day. While the principles of the institution have remained the same the class of students have not. The men and women who sought her halls twenty-five or fifty years ago were different from those of to-day. Then all students did more or less manual labor, and we have many to-day, who are among our ablest men, who worked their way through; but the majority are not of this class. Fifty years, with its development of the country, with its increase of wealth, have also brought to her halls another class, who have their means supplied them and whose surroundings at home are not what they are here. It is in this last class, which constitute a large proportion of the students, that we find the class prejudice which gives rise to the color line.

The college would repudiate her principles as much by the exclusion of this last class as she would by the exclusion of any class on account of color, for one needs christianizing and civilizing as much as the other. She has invited all classes and with them have come class prejudices. There may have been class prejudice before, but never before has it been so manifest as this year.

At the Ladies' Hall white students have refused to sit at the same table with colored ladies. The President and Mrs. Johnston have stated the case before them, but their request has been unwillingly complied with. The faculty have done all they can do. They cannot pass a rule and say the white students shall do thus and so in the matter, for they constitute 98 per cent. of the whole number. The evil ought not to go on. Increase in years will only increase its strength. If to-day prejudice separates the races at the table to-morrow that prejudice may be extended to the recitation room and to the public hall.

What can be done under the circumstances? The students, and the students alone, can eradicate the evil. The students to-day are making the history of Oberlin college. As the President said to us not long since, we have more to

do with the future of Oberlin college than either faculty or trustees, or both. The seed we sow will spring up sixty or a hundred-fold. If to-day we sow seeds of class prejudice what will be the harvest generations hence? If to-day we sow the seeds of forbearance, of charity, of love, what will be the harvest generations hence?

Let us as students revere the memories of the Fathers. Let us cherish the spirit which has permeated and actuated the institution through a half century of her growth. Above all let us cultivate the spirit of Christ which will make us do as we would be done by and love our neighbor as ourselves.

WE cannot forbear offering a word of advice to Sophomores in reference to the study of Rhetoric. Every student has a certain amount of time at his own private disposal. The studies of the college curriculum and the work of the literary societies do not absorb all his energies. How can this superfluous time be most profitably disposed of? Some give it to base ball, some to loafing and some to miscellaneous reading. But probably no method of using it would be more valuable than making it supplementary, as far as possible, to the class room work. Reading in connection with any given study is a most efficient means of fixing the knowledge of that study. While this is important in the case of every study, there is probably none which demands it more imperatively than Rhetoric. The limited time devoted to that subject excludes any opportunity for the study of models in the class room. Yet so far as our own limited experience goes, such an attention to models would constitute a most valuable addition to the work. Without it the study becomes largely theoretical and the principles laid down take little hold of the mind. They are easily learned for the time being, but are never digested and soon forgotten. This deficiency cannot be helped by class room work. The college cannot do everything. To the individual student it belongs, by private effort, to remove this evil. Perhaps no author would be found more useful, for study of this kind than Macaulay.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Yale has a college Y. M. C. A. of 200 members.

Brazil has fifty-five colleges and scientific schools.

Over fifty per cent. of our Congressmen are college men.

Harvard college is to have a physical laboratory, costing \$115,000.

There are 175 college Y. M. C. A.'s in the United States, with a membership of over 1491 students.

Over \$70,000,000 have been contributed by individual donations to colleges during the past ten years.

Thirteen thousand volumes were added during the last year to the Harvard library.

Col. Robt. G. Ingersoll has been engaged by the Seniors of Kansas university to deliver an oration on next Commencement day.

We have it from good authority that the Faculty of Amherst have forbidden their students to engage in inter-collegiate athletic contests.

The temperance association of Ann Arbor has arranged for a course of scientific lectures on alcoholic stimulants.

The catalogue of the university of Michigan reports 513 students in the collegiate departments, and 1021 in the technical schools.

The faculty of Amherst college has refused to allow the Seniors to give more than one dramatic entertainment during the winter.

Two thousand dollars has been bequeathed to Boston University "for the purpose of clothing worthy theological students."—*Ex.*

Lectures for the benefit of the Boating Association of Bowdoin college are regularly given in Memorial Hall, and the receipts are ample for the purpose for which they are designed.

The fire at the college of Meadville, Alleghany, Penn., which occurred last term, is supposed to be incendiary. The faculty feel justified in entertaining a strong suspicion against some of the students.

The Cornell faculty have demanded \$400 from the students to repair the mischief done on Hallowe'en. The students recently held a mass meeting for the purpose of taking steps toward raising the required sum.

A scientific expedition will be undertaken by Williams college next summer, in which students will join, to procure specimens for use in biology and geology. A steamer has already been procured which will be fitted up with apparatus for deep sea dredging and electric lights for gathering specimens at night at different depths.