

Prof. Brant

HAMILTON LIFE.

Vol. II.

CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1900.

No. 19.

A Criticism on "London Assurance."

Last week, as we all know, the dramatic club gave their play, "London Assurance," four times before appearing down town in the Scollard Opera House. It is a hard thing to do two things at once, and do them both well. So it is rather a large undertaking to be at once a theatrical company and college students. Generally it is supposed that either one takes nearly all one's time. Be that as it may, our club thought they could do both, but were mistaken. They did the theatre stunt very well indeed, but fell short in their work; judging from the way many of them are now working.

The object of this is not to show how poorly college work was done, but to give the grounds for the statement that sheer weariness was the cause for the slight lack of life of some of the members in the performance. We do not want to criticise too much, for the show though faulty, as is everything mortal, was far and away ahead of last year's performance. It was a good show, and very well done, taking it all altogether. Yet it had its faults. Some persons in our hearing have criticised its length, saying it was altogether too long for a college club to put on the boards. At any rate, the waits between the acts were too long. There is no doubt of that. One nearly forgot the last act by the time the curtain rose for the next. It was very tedious waiting, for the seats in our magnificent opera house are anything but comfortable as you all know. If we are not mistaken, the programme called for a solo or two on the cornet, and some singing by the Glee Club. These were very conspicuous by their absence. It is not right to go back on your poster, and fool a much deserving audience in such a manner. Who knows but they came as much for the solo and the sing-

ing as for the play itself. It is surely a point on which the management can be justly criticised.

We should judge that the participants in the performance were not in a very good humor on Saturday evening, for there was a great deal of profanity used while they were before the audience. Of course, we do not say it was not in the lines, but we do say whether or no it should by all means have been left unsaid. It jarred on many of the audience's ears, and left an unpleasant impression of the play in general. That impression should have been otherwise, and it would not have taken much to so make it.

The parts in the majority of cases was remarkably well taken, and carried through to the end in fine shape. The part of a girl is always very hard to take, and be natural all the time, so we won't criticise too strongly, but will only say that one of the girls was stiff and somewhat awkward, not thoroughly appreciating the situation. The other female two parts were very well taken. Pert and Lady Gay were especially good, and deserve special notice. The masculine parts were all very well done, with the exception of one or two of the minor ones. If we were to take up each one separately we would not have space enough to give them their just dues, for one and all deserve great praises for their efforts. The performance was one that we were very glad, nay delighted, to acknowledge as being given by Hamilton men. Considering the short time taken for its preparation, and the difficulties under which it labored through dance week, it is surprising to the unbiased mind that such a performance could be so well done.

o: o

SQUIBS.

Every one in college seems to have a cold, and many have sore throats, quinsy and tonsilitis. But the remark-

able thing is the amount of cutting that the sicknesses have caused.

The time for work on K. P.'s and prize essays has come, and the library has a pretty large attendance continually.

The snow on the campus is 30 inches deep in places. Why, the very roads are impassable for cutters in some places, so Dr. Hamlin had to drive on the paths one day this week.

The work in the "gym" is progressing well. The plunge bath and the new bathroom will be ready for use by the beginning of next term, so de Regt says. This plunge will be a great boon to us.

The reading room is more frequented than of the past term. We attribute this to interest in the topics of the day, such as the discussion on imperialism in Congress, and the Boer-English war.

The past two weeks have been busy ones for many of the fellows. The dramatic club's trip; the game with Cornell, and the added amount of work which everyone feels constrained to put on as getting towards reviews.

The faculty are as strict as ever in regard to excuses. All the men on the dramatic club who have "dinks" were refused excuses. What an irony of fate that these who have no cuts are refused them, while those who have cuts are excused.

Pete Kelly is as insistent as ever in regard to his beliefs. We understand that an alumnus has offered a large reward to any one who will convince Pete that the English are right, and that imperialism is the correct policy for the United States to adopt.

Thomas MacLaughlin is sick in bed with the measles. We understand that the basket ball game against Cornell might have been close if not a victory for us if "Tommy" had been able to be around and play his game.

Athletic Department.

R. S. C. DRUMMOND, - - - - - Editor
E. J. WARD, - - - - - Reporter

The Dramatic Club.

"Life" has sent a reporter to interview Manager Hull of the dramatic club, and these facts have been ascertained. The club to-day is about \$60 in the hole, but they have had an all-fired good time, which is the main thing. They have, under the espionage of the manager, made a very pleasant tour in all the little neighboring towns. Hull is a good guide, he knows all the people in all the smaller villages, and the influential persons in the larger ones. The club expects to make up the deficit by a tour after Lent, so that all feel pretty well and successful about their affairs.

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The Mohawk Trip.

The dramatic club started for Mohawk last Friday afternoon with colds, big heads, and plug hats. Deke had swiped, somewhere an enormous white stove-pipe, which, with his tragic locks, made him look like a veteran pounder of the ties. The trains on the Central were late, and the troupe amused themselves and the waiting crowd, by actions suggestive of their calling; and Deke and Dick aroused the ire of some stern old expounder of the principles of propriety by taking off the attitude and bearing of some actor man who sailed into the station shortly before train time, and who needed no giant placard to herald the fact that he was on the way to show somewhere.

On the way down, Esty, Deke, Clark and Dick passed the time away by playing an imaginary game of cards. Freak discovered the pack just as the brakeman shouted for Herkimer. A nice cold trolley ride was necessary to reach that charming village, Mohawk. Here all the gang except Freak, Shep and Dick, were taken in tow by their genial entertainers, and led away to supper. The afore-said three remained to get the properties and stage-settings in order. There wasn't room enough in the wings to stow away all the furniture; the dressing rooms were just about big enough for Deke and Harper; there was scenery

of just one kind, and this was used for both garden and drawing room. When it came time to dress, Deke discovered that he had left his trunk keys in Clinton; but after trying the stock collected from the other members of the club, and from the local locksmith, he succeeded finally in opening his trunk. His dress-suit case he smashed open, with many objurgations.

After the janitor had lighted the two foot-lights, and after Clark and Keogh had dressed on the stage, and removed therefrom their superfluous apparel, the play began. The audience was good. Pretty girls were there to inspire Stowell and Clarkie, and enthusiasm and appreciation enough to spur on the rest of the troupe. The presentation was the best yet, so felt the gang; and it was with confidence that they prepared to make their debut into Mohawk society. Their friends had arranged for a reception and a dance, and everybody went. It was bully. Formality and etiquette were cast to the winds. The girls were pretty, and evidently impressed with the good looks and accomplishments of the representatives of Hamilton College. Esty and Dick went back to the hotel to stay. The rest were billeted round, and from all accounts, wherever anybody had to stay there seemed to be several pretty girls. Indeed, some of the fellows didn't go to bed at all, but stayed up and talked! Freak had everybody routed out early the next morning to get the train for morning chapel. Of course, the trolley car was late, and the crowd missed the train. Their discomfiture was taken philosophically, especially by Esty, Pick, and Harper, who had appearances at noon chapel. But when there came up for discussion the problem of what was to be done, it was simply marvelous to behold the unanimity with which the troupe decided to return to Mohawk, and at once. Freak, Dick and Hank Miller remained until the next car to look after the baggage; and when they got back to Mohawk here were about three fellows in sight. The mystery of their disappearance was explained when train time arrived, and everybody showed up with a young lady acquaintance of the night before, who had come to see him off at Herkimer. All the gang had evidently returned

post-haste to make a morning call. At 10:24 the troupe bade farewell to the girls, and left for Utica. Freak, Capes and Clarkie couldn't break away; they waited until afternoon.

To say that the company were exhausted would be putting it mildly. They tried to sing on the train. The noise was like the wailing of the damned. Whenever they thought of the performance scheduled for Clinton in the evening, they turned into madmen. A few managed to struggle up the hill when they reached Clinton, and the rest went to bed down town. Dick came down about half-past five to arrange the stage. He found no Freak and no trunks. He roused the sleeping Thespians in the Clinton House, and explained matters. Consternation fell upon all—as the novelists say. Clarkie was found finally, and he said that Freak had gone on to Deansboro. Deke, for the first time in his life, wore a long face. He telephoned the baggage department of the Central station in Utica, and found that no trunks answering his description were there. More consternation. Everybody went down to the 6:25 train. No Freak, no trunks. Another inch added to the length of several faces. Clarkie sends in all his money with instructions to get those trunks and send them out at any cost. Meanwhile the gloomy crowd goes up to the Clinton House to eat. Here all sorts of surmises, conjectures, and wild guesses are ventured as to the whereabouts of Freak and the trunks. At one moment everybody curses Freak, and at the next tries to persuade himself and the rest that Freak knows his business. Finally Freak himself, ears, red muffler and all, breaks in the door. He calmly explains that he has been driving in with the trunks. Everyone gives a sigh of relief that chokes him, and finishes his dinner. Then he curses Freak some more.

The play went through all right, but Oh, my! Tired? Well, I guess. Every member has been laid up since with a cold. That was an awful week, but there was lots of fun just the same. Here's to the Hon. Freak Hull!

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Basket-Ball.

Basket ball has been quite a profitable branch of athletics for us. It has been an advertisement. No one could expect us, during our first season, to swipe everything we met. Rather, we should

be proud that we have done as well as we have, for it is phenomenal that we should have a team that amounts to anything the very first year we play. Jesse Millham and the two MacLaughlins are old hands, and experts, and to them is due much credit. Hunter has played before, and is a good player. Among the new men, Dunn, Busch, Peet and Augsbury are worthy of mention. Now none of these men graduate; with good luck, they will all be here next year. Consequently next year, we should have a corking team that will beat about everything in sight.

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Reviews are approaching! We will again be compelled to buckle down and work and work—till our very heads ache. But, by the by, there has been a considerable lot of headache around of late that came from staying up nights, but not to bohn. "Life" wishes to warn all the students, and forewarned is forearmed. If you wish a comfortable examination week, do not take reviews easy. It is easier to jump into your work during reviews than during exams. Remember this little hint, and get down to work as soon as the first review is announced.

—o:0—

A Pastoral.

(By Deke Taylor.)

Twass on a cool September's day,
'Twas in the month of June,
The sun was shining in the night,
The moon was high at noon;
The sidewalks sided on their sides,
And sigh did Mary Jane,
The rain beat up, the dew fell down,
And went against the grain.

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Mail leaves the Hill at the convenience of the carrier and comes up after the carrier gets down.

"Life" would again call the attention of college to the fact that the Hamiltonian is coming out. It is really coming out—by spring term anyway, the editors say. Now, evidently, this year's issue will be an unusually fine one, so it will pay you to begin saving your pennies in order to get enough money together to buy two or three. It would be a very patriotic act on your part to buy some for yourself, and some for your friends, and also to persuade your fellow students to buy some also.

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In an announcement to the senior class, Dr. Stryker said that the old custom of the senior's last chapel must be discontinued. The seniors might be allowed to march into the chapel if they wished, but they must not sing or make any disturbance whatever. This is another instance of the resolution of the faculty to put an end to the good old

college customs which have become immortalized by the duration of their existence. Rowing season, chapel rushes, duckings and such have had to go—now this custom must go, so we are told. "Life" would feel grateful for a statement from some member of the faculty which would give us authentic knowledge in regard to how far the faculty intend to carry this movement of theirs. Are they going to make our good old alma mater like a "nice young man's boarding school?" We voice the sentiments of many alumni and undergraduates when we say that we hope not. These old customs tended to strengthen our college and our class spirit. To be deprived of these seems like losing our malienable rights. 1900 has been unfortunate in the number of innovations she has been forced to make. The rowing season was shut off when we were ready to enjoy it. We felt indignant at that, but we are more indignant at this deprivation. Senior classes for many many years have observed this old custom, which observation is to be denied to us. Are we less fit than preceeding classes? Or does the faculty think that we are more disorderly, more likely to stir up a diminutive revolution? Or do they think themselves less capable than formerly of checking the disturbance when it has gone too far? The gray hairs of this custom ought to be sufficient protection to keep it from a sudden death, such as the faculty are contemplating and are preparing to execute. O! tempora! O! mores!

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Intercollegiate.

President Wheeler, the newly elected head of the University of California, has departed on a trip across the continent, during which he will visit and speak at several eastern colleges. These transcontinental journeys seem to have become the style since Pres. Hadley established the precedent.

Much favorable and adverse comment has arisen over Pres. Hadley's recent utterances with regard to the proper attitude of society toward the promoters and controllers of trusts. A partial remedy which he urges for this growing evil, is the complete social ostracism of those who are its cause. "When it is understood that a man who does certain things cannot associate with his fellow-men, it will penetrate deeply into the social organism."

All the large colleges of the United States will be amply represented at the

Paris Exposition. Princeton is preparing an exhibit of several charts illustrating her growth.

Brown has in attendance this year 868 students as against 925 last year.

The school board of Boston has instituted a course in pedagogy to qualify graduates of colleges to teach in Boston schools.

Chicago University has received gifts the past year to the amount of \$550,000; Harvard about \$1,500,000.

Williams is holding her chess tournament preparatory to the selection of men to represent her in the contest against Amherst.

University of Chicago was defeated in her recent debate with University of Michigan.

Harvard's foot ball team this year averaged 5 feet 11½ inches in height, and 181 pounds in weight.—Ex.

The University of Paris is the largest numerically in the world, 11,000 students are enrolled.

According to President Eliot, it would take forty-four years of study to complete the courses offered at Harvard.—Ex.

It is said that Harvard University is seriously contemplating a change of the tuition fee from \$150 to \$200. The change would yield an additional income of \$150,000 annually equivalent to an endowment of \$5,000,000 at present interest rates.

The Yale Alumni Weekly presents figures which show that the lowest class estimate of expenses during the past ten years is \$779, the highest \$1,132, and the average \$950.

The senior class of Yale will raise a fund of \$1,500 to be expended for class records to go to the University when the last member of the class dies.

The Yale Law School is trying the experiment of the "honor" system at the examinations of the students.

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Another Drama in One Act.

Dramatis Persona.

King Cole Delos Smythe
Jester Deke Taylor

Courtiers, attendants, nine year sleepers and pages. Municipal law class.

Scene—Recitation room in south college.

King Cole—Natural law is the theory advanced by —

Jester—Your Highness, had you heard that there was to be a dramatic club in Hamilton College. I am getting it up, and take a lady's part. Ra! too! ta! ta! Couldn't we have a little discussion on dramatic law?

King Cole—Anything to oblige the class. I am paid for meeting you one time a week (to the assembly). We will now discuss dramatic law (All together). Hear! Hear!

Jester—Where?

Local Department.

H. MINTZ, - - - - - Editor.
J. P. TATE, - - - - - Reporter.

LOCALS.

Feb. 28. Dramatic club leave Oriskany Falls on the very early train, and came into chapel very sleepy. G. T. asks Bib if Milton's Raphael in Paradise Lost was identical with Raphael the artist. Deke Taylor in Municipal Law asks if false teeth are classed among the organs of defense which constitute the human body. Pretty gives a five minute dissertation. Dramatic club leave for Bridgewater on the 2:40. They find a daisy little note, and a stage big enough for two chairs and a table. Audience laughs uproariously at Clark's impromptu jokes. Basket ball team and scrub go into Utica for practice in the Armory. Dunn and Busch have a comical experience. Team gets back on the midnight to find a foot of snow on the ground.

March 1. Trains blocked on all roads. Dramatic club doesn't get out of "Bridgewater" until noon. Dick is laid out, and a pretty nurse from Utica attends him on the train. A considerable amount of profanity expended by the unfortunates. The antics of the manager serve to keep the spirits up. Schnitz mentions a deutsch sentence review, and the class trembles. Miller enters economics recitation, gracefully bows and retires. Simon goes to recitations early in order to get in his usual amount of suping.

March 2. Prex springs a joke in ethics and also puts on and takes off his glasses 78 times during the hour and a quarter. There are an unusual large number of pipes smoked on the campus — by freshmen, also. How about it, sophomores? G. T. falls down in the Metropolitan Hotel, and his plug hat went flying down into the office. My! what a joke. Triess cuts a recitation today. Bib gives his poetry class a cut. Bugs announces a physiology review. Pretty talks more bimetallism. Dramatic club starts for Mohawk. Dick Drummond, the free silverite, appears in Harrison's hat. Deke imitates a bum actor in the Utica station. Esty mourns his lost suit case. Some say this is their best performance. Perhaps it was the influence of the pretty girls. Deke and

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Esty cut great swathes in Mohawk society, and the whole troupe stay up late.

March 3. Davy Mac goes end over end in the snow. Marvin tries to be smart, and goes headlong into the crusty snow, and arises as beaming as ever. Some of the dramatic club are seen in chapel. Goss Stryker once more shows his beaming face and bow legs on our snow clad hillside. Glad to see you out again, Goss. Tuthill makes a bright remark in Latin. Noon chapel poor, though it greatly amused the Rome Academy contingent under Mac Harg. Dramatic club blow in on the noon train. Missed their train at Herkimer. Freak takes another, and does not turn up on time. Basket ball game in Armory at Utica, a good game, resulting in a victory for Cornell by a score of 22-11. Few turn out to cheer, and the team have to play before a strong Cornell crowd. Mott is sick and cannot see the game. "London Assurance" in Scollard Opera House with good full house. Baggage turns up at the last minute after many things have been said.

March 4. Prex preaches. Bill Nye gives one of his informal talks in Silliman Hall after chapel. Several villagers appear in chapel gallery. Shep cuts. The choir are in fine voice and do finely (?) as usual. General attempt at recuperation. Everybody has a cold. Drummond, Davenport and Dunn write orations. Holbrook upsets in a cutter. Juniors bohn French. Moore and Spencer go to church.

March 5. Freak springs a new (?) sweater on the assembled multitude. A word of advice, Freak: Don't do it again. If Weston continues to sport such a sporty flashy shirt, woe betide the Y. M. C. A. president. Prexy and Pills cut their recitations short, but Pretty does not get roped in that way. Pretty calls Thompson the official recording secretary of the municipal law class. Thompson works harder than ever, while Freak warms the register. Hank Miller also works hard. Taylor has difficulty in sitting up straight, and it is hard on Shep. Elkins gives a daisy lecture in Bible. That man is a wonder. Dick takes whiffs from a mysterious looking, red-visaged bottle in Bible. Small fire in rear part of Bug's house. Some venturesome student pours a

pail of water on Schnitz's foot during the fire. Schnitz asks Van Allen who it is, but John's memory conveniently and compassionately fails him.

March 6. Another juicy, rainy day. Dick Drummond has a severe cold, but goes up the hill. Psyche holds an interesting conversational. Rickie has not shown up for some days. He is confined to his room with a combination of tonsillitis, mumps, measles, pneumonia and sore throat. Seniors and freshmen locked out of Science Hall at the 10 o'clock hour. Waddell takes a most beautiful tumble on the way to chapel. Seniors scrap over debate subject. Chapel bell rings less than 5 minutes. The ringer must be getting lazy, for we no longer hear the 7 A. M. and 9 P. M. bells. It comes out to-day that a short time ago Dunn tried to look up half a dozen Greek words in a Latin dictionary, and was puzzled because they were not there. What was it—Houghton? A review in junior French. Nearly all greatly relieved. Walk as though on air. Foot ball team lick their chops in anticipation of their dinner. Higgins wears a worried look. Hull, '01, looks doleful, and when asked the cause said, "I lost half a minute ——— the luck to ——" Never mind, Hades, you are mild to-day, but there is better time coming.

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A Talk in the Reading Room.

It is about time that the fellows learned to appreciate the purpose, and to make proper use of the rooms and appointments of the Y. M. C. A. Why, an unsophisticated stranger happening in at times might imagine by the prattle of voices, the pandemonium of moving movables, the awful music of would-be musicians, the general rattling, din and confusion that so often greet the ear, that he had stumbled into a den of magpies or an apartment of Bedlam.

The rooms are essentially and entirely a place for reading and quiet study, and ought not to be made a general meeting place for babbling freshman and windy sophs. Even upper-classmen are not wholly blameless in their conduct. We have sat in the reading room deeply intent on our magazine, trying to absorb some of its wisdom, or endeavoring to fathom some bottomless

criticism in "Puck" or "Judge," and have been driven into frenzy, often we must confess almost into profanity, when our ears were assailed now by grating cackles, now by nerve-shattering music of would-be De Reskes and Paderewski, now by the loquacious squabbles of trot-travelling freshman, all conglomerated into an exasperating strain of linked dissonance long drawn out.

And the way those magazines and periodicals are maltreated and subjected to every species of cruelty and indignity is enough to draw tears from the discipline committee. The first page of Puck married to the last page of Judge, both scandalously sandwiched in between several severed sheets of "Life," all inhumanly squeezed between the tattered pages of a Ram's Horn divorced of its front, all brutally thrown under table and forced to lie there ignobly and forgotten like a worn, discarded shoe; such was the terrible pitiful spectacle that greeted our vision one day this week. If those sheets could speak, what a hauling over the coals some wights would suffer; what fearful invectives they would hurl, what merciless epithets they would apply, with what scornful, scorching sarcasm they would shrivel the full-breasted dignity of you proud, careless student. As a matter of fact, while our gaze was arrested by this woeful sight, the jagged, amorphous bundle seemed suddenly to become alive and to pour forth in a voice for a while scarce audible, the following plaint directed against a student deeply absorbed near the table in the latest "Evangelist:"

"You ungrateful wretch," it said, "you to whom we have afforded so much pleasure, for whom we have whiled away so many weary moments, you, whom, when the hours and the heart hung heavy we have made to laugh, whom when sad we have soothed, and for whom when the world seemed dull and dark we have made life seem bright and worth the living, you will now treat us so ungratefully, so disgracefully. Is this then our merit and our reward? Listen. Do you remember," said the Comics, while Ram's Horn subsided, "how only a few mornings ago you came in here after a class flunk with a face like a cloud, and a brow like thunder, knocking the chairs about, kicking the

legs of the table, dashing the papers and magazines against the wall, surlily returning the salutations of your fellows? Then you took us up roughly to be sure, the while snarling like a coyote. Soon your eye brightened, and the cloud passed, and the wrinkles changed to ripples, and you laughed until the tears came, and you went away cheerful as the morning, with a smile on your lip, and a benediction in your heart for us, your comfort and solace." "And do you remember," broke in the Ram's Horn, taking up the talk, "how last night after you had been to see Her, and had found your rival there, and She had given you the icy shoulder and the marble valentine, you came in looking like a crushed jelly-fish, and swearing like a Bible-shark? Indeed you became so immodestly profane that the chairs which Psyche says have souls, felt ashamed and fled precipitously into the next room. And you seized me as if I had been your rival's hair, and I took pity on you and said softly, 'Come, old man, brace up (don't turn my pages so roughly) there are others (ouch! quit thumbing me so cruelly) just as good (Gee! but you've got sharp nails) as this perfidious strawberry blond.' Soon your frown fled, and you became so absorbed that you read until the janitor came and you begged the privilege of taking me to your room. And you read until the light failed and the lids grew heavy, and I stayed with you through the night, and you slept like a little child. In the morning you returned me, flippantly and brutally flinging me with these, my noble friends, here in this uncomfortable place, forcing us to assume this undignified and painful posture, and thus we have spent the weary hours without anyone deigning even to notice us." "You ungrateful wretch," chimed in the rest in tones clarion-clear, "after such beautiful friendship, such close intimacy, such nose-to-nose hobnobbing, to treat us thus ungratefully, disgracefully, brutally, savagely."

But we had heard enough, and gently lifting the turbulent quartette to a comfortable seat on the table, we fled the terrific storm filled with the sad reflection that the fate is indeed cruel and hard of papers and periodicals in the Y. M. C. A. rooms of Hamilton College.

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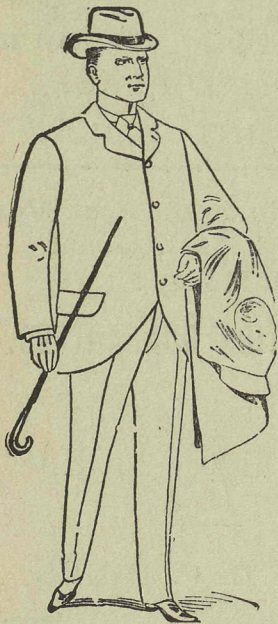
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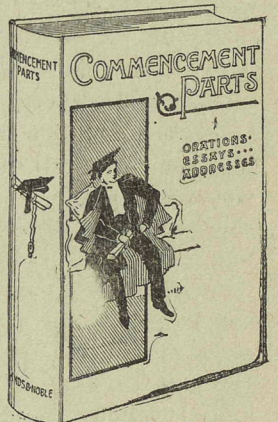
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