

Prof Bramat

HAMILTON LIFE.

Vol. II.

CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1900.

No. 22.

A Defense of "London Assurance."

Although the presentation of "London Assurance" by the dramatic club occurred so long ago, we still hear grumbings and fault-findings regarding the play and the manner of its representation from town, faculty, and even college. The adjective used in town to describe the play is universally "rotten." We understand the faculty, or some of the faculty, at any rate, considered the play "immoral in every way." Others of the faculty thought it "bulky and cumbersome." Even the estimable young ladies of Houghton Seminary, we learn, have set themselves up as critics of the dramatic art, and with feminine positiveness have pronounced judgment upon the play to the effect "that it was simply horrid; everything dragged, and every man after he had delivered his lines turned mechanically and waited for the person addressed to answer, etc., etc." The fault is found that the waits between the acts were inexcusably long; that the club broke faith with the public in not giving them the pleasure of listening to the glee club, as advertised. It seems but just to the dramatic club, and in accordance with our policy, to support anything that belongs to Hamilton College, to defend the dramatic club from unjust criticism. We do not assert that the production was faultless. What amateur play is faultless? We grant that there were minor defects, that some of the individual parts might have been bettered materially, but we do claim that, considering all things, and taking the production as a whole, the work of the club with a play of such pretensions as "London Assurance," even under the unfavorable circumstances of presentation on the night of March third, in Clinton, was highly commendable.

In the first place, no one, we suppose,

except the members themselves, knows the disadvantages under which the club labored on that night. The strain and fatigue of that long week must have been fearful. Three of the club had colds which next day put them to bed, and several others succumbed during the next week. All were physically exhausted. With this stated, let us consider the objections to the play and the playing. First, as regards the prevalent opinion of the town. There were undoubtedly a good many persons in the audience who came with the expectation of seeing a plotless farce, a few fellows dressed to impersonate female characters, some buffoonery and horseplay, and a grand biff, bang! to wind up. They found the play on an intellectual plane a little too high for them, and of course they didn't like it. As a necessary sequence to this feeling they imagined that the waits were too long, and likewise the duration of the whole play. They didn't understand the difficult changes that had to be made; they didn't know the play is advertised to consume two hours and forty-five minutes in presentation. They thought it was dull, because they couldn't figure out the complications and the unraveling. They thought it slow, because they were accustomed to and expected a coon-and-banjo enunciation, and a rag-time action.

As to the objection that the play "was immoral," "London Assurance" is supposed to be a farce dealing with a certain period of English and London society life. Where the "immorality" comes in must be in that part of the play which deals with the pretended elopement of Lady Gay with Sir Harcourt, in the scene in which Dazzle and Charles Courtly enter after a night's carousal, a little the worse for wear, and in individual lines that contained words not countenanced in the pulpit, for instance. It would need a telescopic vision surely to discover any immoral-

ity in the "elopement." It is not real, and is introduced only to serve the purpose of bringing about several comical situations. The intoxication scene is one of the most important in the development of the plot, and yet its import was entirely missed, we have no doubt, by the greater part of the audience. We fail to see how it was even objectionable, and it was necessary in order to show how thoroughly deceived was Sir Harcourt as to his son's habits and life. It formed the basis for much of the humor of the play. Stage drunkenness isn't necessarily debauching. As to the use of several profane words in the play, if they had been superfluous, or if they had been employed only to pander to a low class of listeners, we should condemn their presence as loudly as any strait-laced Puritan; but they did not seem to us greatly out of place. From the lips of Max Harkaway, the bluff old English squire, they seemed destitute of any vulgarity or "toughness" whatever; and when used by Sir Harcourt once or twice, in our humble opinion, they added immensely to the comical effect of his utterance. Besides, the play wasn't presented to inculcate a great moral idea, nor with the thought that its influence would be wide spread.

Lastly, as to the "cumbersomeness" of the play. Some of the speeches seemed verbose to divers learned critics. "London Assurance" is a finely written play; the plot is cleverly drawn, and the composition is skillful and apt. Much of the humor wasn't as open as an April-fool joke; it lay in those same "bulky" speeches. If the pertinence of these to the plot didn't seem plain, the faultfinders have their own denseness to blame.

We wish we had more space to devote to this subject, for our patriotism is roused, and we like to take any opportunity to defend our organizations from unjust attacks. As we have said, the presentation of "London Assurance" was not flawless, but it was no such discredit to the college as some persons would represent.

Athletic Department.

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

The Freshmen.

"Life" wishes to make a few remarks to the freshmen. They are written with the best intentions, but they are meant. There is an old custom in Hamilton College, and a good one, that you freshmen are expected to speak to upper-class men when you meet them. Whether they speak to you or not is immaterial, but you should speak to them. Now there are several ways of speaking: some members of your class have a very condescending way of speaking, which we do not advise you to imitate. It is not compatible with first year dignity. The most pleasant bow that you can make will be the most profitable for you. This is no idle jest. A "fresh" freshman is pretty apt to feel the displeasure of the college, and there are enough of these in your class without some others of you trying to imitate them. It will pay you all to be a little less evident when you are on the campus, and a little more quiet when you are in the college buildings. Don't try to hurry things up. You will be an upper class man when your time comes, but that is not yet. For the present, restrain yourself, check your boyish spirits, hold in that animal vitality. We realize that it is hard for youth to appear old, but if you heed our warning you will save yourselves from the disagreeable experience of being forcibly brought to a realization of your position.

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Field Meet with N. Y. U.

Manager Quinn has received a favorable reply from New York University, concerning a track meet. Negotiations had been carried on since the middle of winter term. But Manager Quinn was unwilling to accept the terms which were offered by New York. The disclosure of the Columbia foot ball scandal indirectly prevented a meet with Columbia. At this time nothing definite had been arranged with New York. The time was growing short, and it began to look as though we would have to

meet Clinton High School, or do without a meet altogether.

Hamilton's track manager then offered N. Y. U. one hundred and fifty dollars to come to Utica for a meet. The reply, in which New York accepted the offer, arrived here on Monday evening, and since then even worry over examinations has not been able to drive the happy smiles from Captain Mason's face. New York suggested that the meet be held on May 12th. The date will probably be fixed for May 18. The 17th is the date of spring field day. Efforts will be made to change this to Tuesday, the 15th, so as to give the men a rest between the two games.

Chick prophecies a close and interesting meet. New York is strong in the jumps and long runs, but to quote the captain's words, "Hamilton will be surprised by the work of her own men." "Uncle John" will be here in a couple of weeks, and it is to be hoped that every aspiring athlete will be in such shape that he will merit the commendation of our genial trainer. Steady, faithful work is worth more than great ability. This has been the secret of Hamilton's success in her athletic history, and the fact that New York is several times larger than Hamilton should only be an extra goad to good work. We defeated them twice in foot ball, and they shall not carry away the pennant which Hamilton will offer. Captain Mason deserves and desires the faithful cooperation of not only every track man, but every other man who is jealous of the honorable position which Hamilton holds in athletics. The number of pennants in the gym telling of victories, has been increasing steadily. This chance to add one to that collection must not be lost.

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Intercollegiate.

Bowdoin has various clubs formed for the further study of college subjects, under the immediate direction of members of the faculty.

There is much discussion at Yale over the question of allowing academic graduates continuing their studies there, to keep their rooms in the dormitories.

Clinton Scollard will be the poet of the Phi Beta Kappa exercises this year.

The Universities of California and

Pennsylvania are to contest in a duel track team.—Ex.

Princeton's base ball team will have for coach Clark, catcher of the Boston League team.

Out of 477 colleges in the United States, 370 have an enrollment of less than 150 students.

California will send a track team out this season, and is raising \$1,500 from her students for that purpose.

A unique feature of the training of Harvard's representative for the debating contest with Yale, is to develop their full physical strength. "Harvard has learned by experience the necessity of having her debaters perfectly fresh and vigorous for these forensic contests."

Oberlin has had in attendance thus far this year over 1200 students.

Princeton has already forwarded to Paris her exhibits for the Exposition.

California and Stanford will hold their joint debate in San Francisco on the subject "Resolved, That the guarantees of the constitution should extend to all persons and territory under the permanent control of the United States, except to persons living in tribal relations."

The trustees of the Western University of Pennsylvania have decided to erect a new astronomical observatory at the cost of \$250,000, to be the finest in this part of the world.

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SQUIBS.

Best Story Croker Ever Heard.:—"I have heard a good many stories in my time," said Mr. Croker recently, "but the trouble is to remember them. I enjoy them when I hear them, but they go in one ear and out the other. The best one I can now recall is about Sheriff Dunn. Perhaps you know that there is a Thomas Dunn Association, named after the Sheriff. It is a social organization and gives a ball every year. Last year the ball was given soon after Mr. Dunn was elected, and there was a big attendance. One man, an old friend of the sheriff, got himself up in great shape for the occasion, appearing for the first time in his life in evening-dress.

"'Hello, Tom,' he said; 'how do I look in a dress-suit?'"

"'First-rate,' said the sheriff; 'why don't you get one?'"—Life.

Realistic.—"Any new features at the musical?" "Oh, yes; Mr. Brisue sang 'Old Kentucky Home' with a pistol obligatory."—The Indianapolis Journal.

(Continued from page 4).

Spring Term.

feel gloomy on this hillside in the spring time, unless it is over thoughts of departure soon to be.

There is no lack of amusement, of things to do, or of things to see. The track men are out training, and the base ball men are out in practice or in regular games. A walk downtown or into the surrounding country is not only shorn of all its terrors, but becomes a profit and is instructive recreation. Pleasure in winter term is to be had only for money. Pleasure in spring term is free and limitless.

But while thus enjoying ourselves, let us not forget that certain duties are incumbent upon us. While we look at the athletes in training, let us remember that here are two teams requiring our support. Here are two hard-working patriotic managers, toiling in the interests of the college, who need your subscription and mine. Our presence on Steuben Field is a good thing; our names on the base ball and track subscription lists, with a single word "paid," inscribed opposite, is also a good thing.

Let us also bear in mind this other important fact. All that seems necessary to induce a man to decide upon Hamilton as his college, is to bring him on here in the spring term, and give him a good time. Long experience has shown the truth of this. The spirit lingers in the air. It fills everyone who comes. If then you have some bright and promising young friend that is as yet undecided, where he shall go to attend college, bring him on and keep him for a week. You will find everybody ready to help you give him a good time. If when he leaves he isn't as good a Hamilton man as you are, if he is so hardened as to resist the charm of the place and time, he isn't the man we want. Remember this next term, and act upon it.

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We often note how lowest vice garbed in jewels and lace, Some men will praise or pardon as a privilege or a grace, Thus some who look with scorn on the beer-guzzling libertine, Will cast admiring glances at a dandy drunk with wine. For years his yearning soul had sought afar

To find one living, human soul like to his own; And when at last he came this soul to meet,

He fled with terror at the frightful revelation.

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

"Life" has seen from a Utica paper a flattering notice of the elopement of a young lady from Houghton Seminary. We had known for a long time that the "Sem" was full of pleasant surprises, but even, at that, the unexpected happens. Surely, it must be a good school which trains its students so well in the duties of life that young men can not wait for them to graduate to woo and win them. And then the romance of the whole affair. The young lady takes a walk, and the ardent suitor drives up with his Nancy Hanks, and dares any one to pursue him and his prospective bride. Lo! opposition is vain. Before any interference can come, the happy couple are made one in the little hamlet of Westmoreland. Oh! tempora Oh! mores. Where are your boasted

rope ladders? Where your moonlight flights? Where the pillion back of the dashing bridegroom. But still, "Life" wishes the happy pair a pleasant voyage on life's temptuous sea, and a safe harbor in the port of happiness.

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The board of editors announce that the 1901 Hamiltonian will be out by the first of May. The material for the book has been all collected, practically, and nothing remains but the printing and binding. It is probable that the price will be increased this year. When one thinks of it, a dollar is an absurdly low price to pay for a volume upon which so much time, labor and money have been expended. But this year, owing to greatly increased charge for printing and binding, to the enormous expense to which the editors have gone with respect to the art department, and to the difficulty of securing advertisements, the possible receipts are over-balanced by the inevitable expenses, if the book is to be sold at the old price. It is probable that the board will have to charge a dollar and a half in order to cover the bare expenses of producing the work.

In several features, the 1901 Hamiltonian will surpass any annual yet issued. It is dedicated to Elihu Root, Esq., '64, the present Secretary of War, and contains a biographical sketch of our honored alumnus by his brother, Oren Root, of the faculty of Hamilton College. This sketch is the most complete and authoritative ever published, and should interest all students and alumni.

Towards securing excellence as regards the art work, the editors have worked hard. No Hamiltonian yet issued has contained so many drawings and photo-engravings as will appear in this volume. Of special interest are several beautiful reproductions of photographs taken during the Colgate-Hamilton and the Hamilton-R. P. I. foot ball games.

In the literary department, the editors have secured some excellent articles from men now in college, already known as writers of ability, and from alumni. Caius Lee, in a characteristic article, heralds the achievements of '99 since their graduation. W. R. Lee, 1900, has a drama in two acts, a production said to excel by far any of his previous

efforts along the same line. The editors cannot be induced to give away all the good things that are to appear in this book, but they promise one of the best volumes ever gotten out. So let the college stand ready to back up the board. The Hamiltonian is a college enterprise, not a money-making scheme. Buy three or four books, and send them to your friends. Don't torture the editors by asking that pestering question, "When is the Hamiltonian coming out?" but be prepared to hustle the sale along when the first of May arrives.

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Spring Term.

Winter term is almost over, a few more examinations, and we shall all be at liberty to enjoy to the full the paltry five days of vacation granted us by a far-seeing, altruistic faculty. It has been a hard, mean term. The work has been disagreeable, and has been administered in large doses. The weather has been uncomfortable and unpleasant. But the very fact of its wretchedness makes the transition from winter term to spring term the more welcome and delightful. Of its wretchedness makes the transition from winter term to spring term the more welcome and delightful.

There is no prettier or pleasanter spot on earth than our own dear hillside in the spring and summer, when our beautiful trees burst forth in bloom, and when you can gaze afar off upon the mighty scenery with which we are surrounded, and feel the inspiration, poetic and historical, which the Great Maker has given this region the power to produce. The sight of the broad valley in the early morning sunlight, with the distant hills dim by reason of the mist rising from that great river, famed in song and story, is enough to propel a man through his day's tasks by the very joy with which it thrills his soul. You freshmen, who haven't yet experienced this feeling, prepare yourselves! Then we do not have to plough through snow-drifts, and half-cleared walks and paths, bowing our heads before a Central New York blizzard, and footing insecure, our lips framing dire and dreadful words. We don't feel like committing suicide three times a day then. But there is a positive pleasure in existence. Even work has no terrors. We defy a man to

(Continued to page 3).

Local Department.

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

LOCALS.

March 23. Pretty holds a review in junior economics. He refuses to excuse Curran competitors, but allows them all to occupy the back seats, for what purpose we do not know. Spencer and Drummond sit up late bohnng, bolstering themselves along with frequent drafts of hot coffee.

March 24. Curran and Munson prize examinations. On the Curran, Triess, Quinn and Dick Drummond; on the Munson, Spencer, McHarg and Waddell sit and swear and sweat.

March 25. Hull entertains a coterie of disciples with choice wit and philosophy in epigrams. Dr. Elkin appears with a Clinton haircut. Shep, for the second time, masquerades in his new pearl-gray vest. McKee wears his hot necktie.

March 26. Elkin poetically and dramatically closes his course of lectures on the Epistle to the Romans with a long, sonorous quotation from Matthew Arnold. He has a fine way of doing things, that man Elkin. Drummond, Hull and Johnston argue with Calvinistic zeal in favor of the theory of predestination. Rickie, likewise, attempts to demonstrate his familiarity with questions of theological doctrine. Dunn purchases an india-rubber refrigerator. Hull tries to expound an intricate point of his philosophy, and becomes confused.

March 27. Elkin confounds the efforts of his pupils to work him for a preparatory review of his examination questions. Davenport, Drummond and Barnes go into Utica and get hair cuts. Davenport also purchases some sentimental music for Drummond, he says.

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Concerning Foot-Ball.

If there was ever a time in the athletic history of Hamilton College to warrant branching out and increasing its area of games, it is the present time. There is an old saying that there is no time like the present, and right here is where it applies, and that very well. The present time is the time to branch out and begin an athletic growth

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that will be bound to be recognized soon among the smaller colleges throughout New England. For what reason beside our disagreement with Union did we resign our place in the league with Colgate and Union. The first reason in the set of resolutions sent to the meeting in Utica was that we were going to branch out and wanted more freedom to arrange a satisfactory schedule. The idea in that set of resolutions was that the league was not good enough, and we wanted to play teams with more reputation, so we could also establish a reputation throughout the New England colleges, that though small, we are right there when it comes to foot ball and other athletic games.

With this idea spread broadcast, it is our duty to play as fine a schedule as possible. As has been said before, there is no time like the present. For our team will to all intent and purposes be a veteran team—a team that has played together for a whole year with fine coaching and captaining. Never will a foot ball team enter on a season in such good preparation as the one next year. The only varsity men that go out with 1900 are Sheppard and Mason, who though very good are not so good that their places can not be filled in some way. Here we begin the year with a victorious veteran team, and with good prospects of foot ball material in the freshmen class. Now is the time to branch out and begin to do something in the athletic world of the eastern colleges. We can't ever hope to jump into the class of the New England college without getting defeated perhaps more times than we win, but there is more glory in being defeated by an eastern college of very good athletic reputation, than in defeating, and that badly, some of the institutions we have been accustomed to play in years gone by.

The collegiate world, in general has recognized the fact that we "are some punkins" when it comes to playing foot ball, and this has been shown by offers for games from Williams, Wesleyan, Dartmouth, West Point and Brown. The management has arraigned games with Williams, Dartmouth and West Point, but has not been permitted to arrange the game with Brown, on the

statement that the team can't stand the strain.

Now "Life" can't see the force of this argument, for the date of the Brown game is November 24, and there is no game of importance within two weeks of it. Brown has come up greatly in foot ball lately, and it is a fine chance for Hamilton to play her. Brown has a good reputation, and if we could, and there is no reason why we could not, make a good showing against her, our reputation would be just that much greater. In fact, we have everything to gain, and nothing to lose, for if we lose by a large score, we will be in just the same class as before, and can try again some other time, whereas if we make a good showing, we gain a desirable reputation.

Even if we played all big teams, and lost every game, we would gain more in reputation, and our college would be more widely heard of than if we played some two by four institution, and beat the pants off it. "Life" knows that some of the foot ball team are very much in favor of playing this Brown game. Of course, if the team do not want to play the Brown game, because it would make the season too long, and it would thus necessitate too much work on their part, why you can't hardly blame them for being lazy, but then if they go into to play foot ball at all, they should go in with the idea of playing as many games as they are physically able, without in any way injuring themselves, they should go into it with the idea of adding all they can to the reputation and prestige of our dear old college on this hillside.

The argument that our college is so small that it cannot handle a schedule that includes Williams, Dartmouth, West Point, Trinity and Brown, is of no weight, unless you are willing to acknowledge that the physical condition of our men is of an inferior quality to that of other institutions. There are other small colleges that are as small as we are that handle as many as five good stiff games during the season. Take Trinity for instance, she plays more games with larger and stronger institutions than we ever thought of. How does she stand it? Is the physical condition of her team better than ours? Are her men capable of more exertion

than ours? Have they more endurance than we? Of course, not as has been shown by our defeating them. Surely, if she can play large and stronger teams, we can at least play in addition to our present schedule, Brown. If we say we can't play because we can't stand the strain, etc., what do we do but play the baby act. Why not come right out and say we are afraid of Brown, and therefore won't play her.

If any one will search his memory a bit he will find stowed away there the fact that in the New York game more men got laid up than in either the Indian or Cornell game. So it would be foolish to say that it is the fear of getting men laid up that we fight shy of Brown, for it stands to reason that there is an equal chance of getting laid up in all the games. Eastern colleges don't play dirty ball, but clean ball, where the chances are few of getting laid up.

"Life" feels there is a goodly number of men in college who want to see us play Brown in addition to the present arrangement of games, and also some of the players themselves want to see this game. The offer was as follows: To play in Providence on November 24, with expenses guaranteed. That would not be a hard trip for the team, and as most of the games are to be played here, there is no doubt but that the faculty would grant an absence long enough to have a whole day of rest in Providence before the game. If any one cares to defend the reason why we should not play Brown, "Life" will be glad to publish such defense.

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The winter term of 1900 is drawing to a close. A few days more and it will be nothing more than a memory. "This winter at Valley Forge" has been a pleasant one: we are all sorry to know that it has past. More than pleasant, it has been profitable. No term in the year is as good as the winter for work, for good solid intellectual work. This past term has been no exception. An unusually large amount of bohnning has been carried on by the undergraduates, and the proof has been an evident improvement in all students. But these are not the things we remember. Those impressions which will be enduring are the comfortable smokes and talks in our

rooms; the little midnight gatherings for Welsh rabbits and "feeds;" those hours of conversation when we drew near to some fellow collegian and had a confidential chat with him.

Besides all this, there has been a marked progress in the college this winter. A more rational interest in athletics has cropped out. Basket ball has completed a season—the first one, and a successful one too. The track athletes and base ball candidates have shown good interest on a scientific plan. They prepared themselves for spring work by winter exercise and athletic recreation. The social events of the term were unusually successful. The sophomore hop was at least an equal if not the superior to any previous one. There was a new feature introduced in the event of a class debate as an evening affair in the chapel. The dramatic club has given a very good performance, and made a trip, which was a good reminder of the existence of the college. Altogether then, we can all look back on this term with a certain feeling of pride and pleasure to think that back of us there lies a well-spent twelve weeks, well-spent for us and our alma mater.

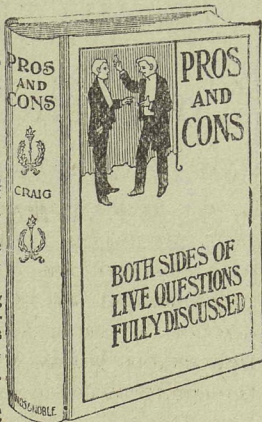
But a summary of these twelve weeks would be incomplete without mentioning a matter which we regret to do. This is the growing dissatisfaction of the students in regard to the punishments of the discipline committee. The college is incensed at the injustice, and rightly, too. Many men have been penalized by extra hours and loss of cuts. This is the dark blot on a pleasant scene.

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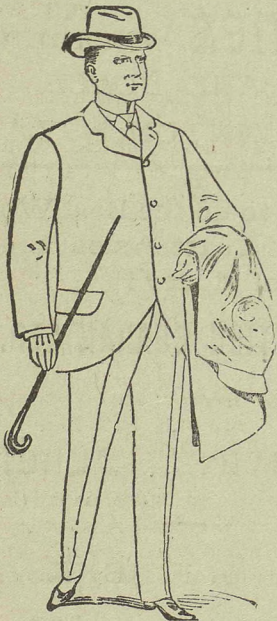
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