common law of the United States? In the earlier days of the history of law in England, we find certain laws recognized and in force throughout more or less extended districts, the origin of which is obscure. They are generally customs of immemorial usage grown to be recognized and enforced as law. They have originated thus as edicts of kings or enactments of councils or legislative bodies, records of which are lost in the obscurity of the past. These well established usages became doubly authenticated by the decision of judges from the earliest days, modified and enlarged to suit the growth of ideas and the emergencies of advancing civilization. They form the great body of the English law, finding their authority not in parliamentary enactment, but in their immemorial and continued usage and the sanction of the courts from the earliest days.

When our ancestors landed on these shores they brought with them the common law of England, and adopted it so far as it suited the conditions of their new life. The war of the revolution grew out of the infractions on the part of the Government of England of the common law rights of the colonists, who, although colonists, were none the less Englishmen, and under the protection of English law and possessors of the rights of Englishmen. Up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence the common law of England was as much a part of our system of jurisprudence as it was that of Great Britain. Strictly speaking the United States has no common law. The Constitution declares that the judicial power of the United States extends to all cases arising under the Constitution, the laws of the United States and treaties. There was no principle which prevades the Union and has the authority of law that is not embodied in the Constitution and Acts of Congress. However, as the common law was the substratum on which the Constitution was founded, we must go to the common law for a definition and an interpretation of its terms.

All of the States, with the exception of Louisianna, have adopted the English common law as its local law, subject to statutory alterations, and only to such extent as suits its conditions. This will effectually answer the complaint of many who cannot see the necessity in the study of the law of spending so much time on study of the common law of England from the Commentaries of Blackstone. When it is remembered that this magnificent body of unwritten law (so called because in its origin not so far as known the subject of legislative enactment) was the law of the Colonies prior to the Revolution, was the birthright for which the great war for independence was fought, is the source of the interpretation of our constitution, our laws and our treaties, in so far as they use words and expressions to which the common law alone gives a meaning, became the law (subject to statutory changes) of all but one of the States of the Union. We are prepared to assign it the place it deserves in the estimation of the student —the foremost and best.

WILLIAM C. SPRAGUE, ESQ.

COLLEGE ASSOCIATION AND FRIENDSHIPS.

The human mind is not capable of omniscence. It is well established that no one intellect can grasp comprehensively the entire universe of knowledge, or even to grapple successfully with the complete field of any one of the elements in this complex compound of cognizance.

And if the mind fails in this propensity, it still falls short in another; that is the quality to reject what the human desires, passions and sympathies would cherish. Like the stream which within itself has not the power to flow against the current, nor yet can it ignore the passions, sympathies and laws of nature and retard the downward flow.

We were most forcibly and touchingly reminded a few Sabbaths since, that college friendship is one of these ineradicables.

When we see a rushing, energetic business man stop and tear himself from the whirlwind of human