

There seemed to be present a sad air of gloom,
 Befitted a place that was nightly the scene
 Of gambling and cursing, of fighting and spleen ;
 While shadows that flitted the walls seemed like ghouls
 Or demons, that horribly grinned at the fools
 Who, night after night all regardless of dates,
 Exultingly gloated o'er flushes and straights.

'Twas midnight, that hour of infinite use
 To those who're addicted to visits from Muse,
 The cards had been shuffled, the hands dealt around,
 And yet from the three there scarce issued a sound,
 For they swore and they raised, each anted and played
 As though they were all intensely afraid
 Of waking the spirits of those long since dead,
 Who in those same quarters had lost their last rod.
 A hand had been dealt, 'twas a jack pot, as yet
 Not one had the cards upon which he could bet ;
 And each with a curse his ill luck did declare
 When issued a voice from the vacant fourth chair,
 "I'll open for ten," were the sepulchral strains
 Which caused them to start and the blood in their veins
 To chill ;—for with hair standing stark upon end
 They gazed—they'd a phantom with which to contend.
 His clothes were all tattered and covered with mould,
 He constantly chattered and shivered with cold ;
 His hair hung unkempt and uncombed 'round two eyes
 Which, sunk deep in his head and monstrous in size,
 Seemed to glare at the three with a hatred intense,
 As though he would clean them of dollars and cents.
 He drew from his pocket an ancient worn dime,
 All dented, all battered, all ravaged by time ;
 And when the three saw it, full loud were their sneers,
 All greeting his first bet with sallies and jeers,
 As though they considered 'twere but a small feat
 To render the phantoms bankruptcy complete.

They played, and they cheated, they anted, and swore,
 And the more the ghost won, they cheated the more ;
 Naught, naught said the spectre but played on intent,
 Ne'er borrowed, ne'er cheated, but sparingly lent,
 But flushes, full houses and straights seemed to vie
 To see which could most in his clam hands lie.
 He won all their copper, their silver, their gold
 'Till his broad spectral pocket would scarce the pile hold ;
 He won all their watches, their knives and their keys
 Their collars and clothing, with nonchalant ease.

At last came the morning, and not until then,
 When first its rays lighted the dull gloomy den,
 The game did they cease ; it had cost them so dear
 They'd have to quit cigarette smoke for a year ;
 Then up rose the ghost with a sneer in his mien,
 His pockets all bulging with things that had been
 Their property once, and he tore his long beard,
 Gave a loud fiendish laugh and slow disappeared.

J. G.

THE WINTER MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

We copy the following account of the meeting
 from a Philadelphia paper.

"HARRISBURG, Jan. 26 (*Special*).—The winter meeting of the Trustees of the Pennsylvania State College was held last night in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was nearly midnight before all the business was disposed of. This morning the accounts of John Hamilton, Treasurer of the institution, were audited. The general fund shows receipts of \$111,969.52, and expenses \$110,947.50.

Among the most important business transacted was the changing of the time of the annual commencement by shortening the college year by two weeks. It will hereafter consist of thirty-six, instead of thirty-eight weeks. The next commencement will be held on Wednesday, June 15. The election of Trustees will take place on June 14.

The Executive Committee was authorized to grant the right of way through the college grounds to the Bellefonte Central Railroad, formerly the Buffalo Run Railroad, which will be extended from its present terminus to the village of State College. This will afford direct connection with Bellefonte.

The President of the college, Dr. George W. Atherton, the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. H. P. Armsby, and the Professor of Agriculture, Professor H. F. Walters, were authorized to formulate a plan of instruction in agricultural science for farmers at their homes, according to the Chautauqua or University Extension system.

The Executive Committee, of which ex-Gov. Beaver is chairman, was authorized to employ a Physical Director to take charge of the college athletic exercises.

It was also agreed that the College should be represented at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Suitable resolutions in reference to the death of Professor Jas. Y. McKee, late Vice President of the College, and Professor of English Literature, were adopted ; and the filling of the vacancy was postponed until the next meeting of the Trustees in June.

Ex-Gov. Beaver reported that the new engineering building will likely be finished by the time of the opening of the next college year. It will be the handsomest building on the college campus, and will have a greater frontage than the main building. The latter has a front of 234 feet. The new building will have a frontage of 269 feet and a depth of 200 feet.

Hon. Francis Jordan presided at the meeting, and Dr. G. W. Atherton officiated as Secretary.