

SOME one has fumbled, so to speak,—Winter is here, and the new engineering building is not under roof, and in a very unfinished condition generally. Furthermore, students passing by upon the walk have for several weeks been startled by loud explosions in the cellar. An examination shows that there can be learned as effective a lesson as could be found in any of our text books;—except—this is a lesson upon how not to do things. The bases of several of the pillars show cracks, evidently caused by settling due to shattering of the supporting rock. The freezing of pools of water which have collected in the excavation at one or two points will certainly not add to the stability of the foundation rock, which should have remained intact and undisturbed.

If there has been necessity for any change of plans, it is rather unfortunate. Every one must say however, that the engineering building when completed will be a grand and fine structure.

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IT is said that students of Yale, seeing that there would be a shortage of tickets for the Yale—Harvard foot ball game, purchased tickets in large numbers which they were enabled to sell at exorbitant prices. It is to be hoped that few opportunities will be offered for copying an example which patrons, and admirers of foot ball must everywhere deprecate.

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THE present class in Geology has had the benefit of two geological excursions under the direction of Prof. Buckhout. The *itinerary* of the trip to Snow Shoe will be published in the December FREE LANCE. It is to be hoped that this most valuable, and effective means of instruction will be not only continued in the future, but extended.

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WALSH'S Slogan; Fisher! Fisher! Old King Fisher! What's the matter with Fisher? Oh! he's all right! Fisher's the man that makes the fissures in Lafayette's ranks!

### BEYOND THE ALPS LIES ITALY.

At the beginning of the second Punic war Rome was mistress of all Italy, and we might say that she, like Alexander the Great, was looking for more worlds to conquer. By her peace with Carthage she had obtained in the island of Sicily her first province. She now rather unfairly secured possession of the islands of Sardinia and Corsica; to which Carthage retaliated by taking the Spanish town of Seguntum, claimed by the Romans as an ally. This precipitated a second war which was carried on, on the part of Rome by Scipio; while Carthage had for her leader Hannibal who, history tells us, was one of the greatest captains the world has ever seen. Hannibal decided to make one bold and effective stroke by invading Italy from Spain by land with a force of sixty thousand men. With this vast army he had to cross the Pyrenees, traverse what is now southern France and finally to surmount that then almost unsurmountable barrier between central Europe and Italy, the Alps and that, too under the furious assaults of the barbarous mountaineers. Such an undertaking would have been conceived by none but a great soldier and statesman and would not have been attempted but for his oath of vengeance against the Romans and for a prize anything less than Italy the garden land of all Europe. But Hannibal did conceive and did accomplish the task. The first part of the march presented no very great difficulties, so we soon find him toiling up the narrow Alpine defiles, skirting precipices on this hand or avoiding dangers on that, yet ever on his guard against (his foes.) Like the true soldier that he was, we find him gaining by strategy the advantages he could not gain by force; and in the hour of greatest peril, encouraging his soldiers by reminding them that "Beyond the Alps lies Italy." In other words he tells them that if they but persist and surmount the present obstacles, they will soon reach that land of milk and honey, where the sweets of their conquests will be but heightened by the memory of the difficulties which they shall have overcome.