

the students especially it has, within recent years, become the day when lads get on their first spree.

"The sights enacted in our city on Thursday night by the college men, the taking possession of saloons, breaking up theatres, blowing horns in people's faces, kissing unprotected women on the public streets, carrying them on their shoulders, drinking themselves drunk, shouting themselves hoarse, singing with Bowery tough bravado, "Here's to good old whiskey, drink her down," were a disgrace to our civilization, and the colleges and universities which tolerates such depravities should be consistent and drop the name of Christian.

## SEVERE WORDS.

"A thousand wild Indians or monkeys turned loose could not have acted worse than did the respectable sons of praying mothers, from colleges and universities founded by Christian patriots. I know this is an unpopular talk, but with popularity an honest preacher has simply nothing to do. That these excessive college sports unfit the students who take part in them for the active work of life is evident from the fact that the majority of our best scholars and most successful men come from the smaller colleges, and if the rich men believe in developing the brains of the country let them endow the hundreds of small, struggling colleges throughout the land."

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THE people of the United States are by nature "hustlers" to whom ease of communication and celerity of movement is a necessity. And yet the country roads of the United States are poorer than those of any other country in the world, civilized or semi-civilized. The agitation of the road question is therefore a useful and a timely agitation of a subject that is of the highest possible importance to all. The merchant and the farmer, the laborer, and in the language of Burdette, "men, women and children, editors, *donkeys* ministers, and *Members of Congress*"—all need good roads, and need them so much that they can afford to build and pay for them at once. In fact the want of good roads in this country is of such a nature that we cannot profitably put off throwing the fullest measure of our influence and our dollars for the getting of good roads, a single day. It is not too much to say that the interests concerned in the country roads run the entire gamut of human activities, extending as they do from the most sordid mercantilism to the sociological and aesthetic. Everything which makes country parts more beautiful and *accessible* makes country life

more profitable in every way, and adds effectiveness to the sustaining forces in our national character which flow from *the country home*—their great well-spring.

The proposition for the establishment of a Road Department, an Institute of Road Engineering, a permanent Road Exhibit in the city of Washington, and a comprehensive exhibit of road construction and maintenance at the World's Columbian Exposition is a good one, due to Col. Albert A. Pope. Petitions in its favor should be promptly signed by all. They will have their weight in favor of our greatest need—good roads.

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VARIOUS editors, congressmen, would-be—congressmen, and others have had their in-nings in an attempt to define the true causes of "agricultural depression." Among them President David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, was roundly criticised for the explanation which suggested itself as he traveled by rail through southern Indiana. He thought from the great number of persons he saw lounging about all the stations that it was simple, downright laziness which held the farmer down.

However this may be, it might be possible to treat the subject in a lyric poem set to the music of the frying pan. It would commence thus:—

Lo! the poor farmer! helplessly  
Tempest tossed on the porcine wave.

In other words, agricultural depression is largely a matter of diet, and principally stomachic.

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COMPLETELY and exhaustively "reading up" on the Silver Conference, now being held at Brussels, will furnish a kind of training every one needs, as well as a most useful fund of the kind of knowledge that is as good as gold.

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FRIENDS of the FREE LANCE are asked to cooperate with the Business Manager in his effort to free it from debt, and conduct it