

# THE FREE LANCE.

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## THE FREE LANCE.

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**B**EING our first issue, it becomes the duty of the new staff to make a few opening remarks. With a word of good bye, the old staff has stepped down and out, leaving the LANCE in a much better condition financially and otherwise than it has been for a long time. It is our hope that our record may be as good and that our successors may be able to say as much for us. In fact, it is our aim to do even better. We hope, with the active help of the students, especially the upper classmen, to be able to bring up the stand-

ard of the LANCE to a level with the publication of any other institution of our size.

This may sound vain glorious, but it is not beyond the bounds of possibility. We must bear in mind that all the literary ability in the College is not concentrated in the staff of editors. Many of our best contributors are men who never were on the staff or in any way connected with it. To these and to the hidden literary lights of the lower classes, we look for assistance.

If they have the time and the inclination, let them write short articles and hand them to some member of the staff. There is no better training for a man's purity of language and diction. It teaches him clearness of expression, smoothness of language, and sequence of thought, things over which every well educated man should have control. Above all, it teaches carefulness. For no matter how careless one may be about his punctuation, syntax, spelling etc., at ordinary times, when he knows that his production will appear in print, he will take special pains.

Whether we get such outside assistance or not, it is the purpose of the staff to do all they can in bringing up the LANCE. Editorially, we will not be able to go much beyond our predecessors even in our best efforts. That department has held its own very well; but, notably in the Literary and Exchange departments, there is great opportunity for advance, and we hope to avail ourselves of this opportunity. Understand us. We do not mean to cast reflection on the former heads of these departments. They have done their share, but, to their share, we will attempt to add a great deal more.

One thing we hope to do is to popularize the LANCE with the student body. It is a lamentable fact that the LANCE is not popular, especially among the lower classmen, and, though we blush