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THE FREE LANCE.

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A GAIN the FREE LANCE has passed into the hands of a new staff. We refer to this from no egotistical desire to make prominent the bare fact, but merely to give us a chance to stop and review a year's work on the college paper. From a business point of view, the year has been far more successful than any of the three immediately preceding it, and this can be traced to no other cause than a most efficient and careful

business management. That the heavy debt which overhung the LANCE at the beginning of the year just passed has been reduced to almost one-half, and the current expenses during the year also paid, is a statement which speaks for itself, especially when we recall that the period referred to was one of financial difficulty everywhere, and that the LANCE is supported by only a small majority of the body which it is supposed to represent. Another statement can be made which may open the eyes of a few of our friends. There is enough money due the management of the LANCE from subscriptions and other sources, which, if it could be collected, would pay off the remainder of the debt, issue the paper for a year and leave a small surplus in the treasury. We want to ask some of our alumni if this is a striking way of showing your loyalty to old State? We acknowledge that there have been mistakes in our business managership, that the literary standard of the paper has fallen considerably, and the issues appear irregularly and after time, but what is more conducive to such a state of affairs, than the discouraging aspect presented above. We cannot give you the paper for nothing, and you do not expect it, so why persist in such an unreasonable course? Some of you say that you have received no statement for a certain length of time, as to your standing on the books of the LANCE and wish to enter the plea of ignorance. Truly, it is a bad oversight on the part of our management where such is the case, but the remedy is easily found by glancing over the first page in any issue you may receive.

Let no one who has read these previous words misconstrue them into a last wail of distress, or the death rattle of a mortally wounded organization, but rather take them as they are intended, a plea for your honest support, or a warning before