

# THE FREE LANCE.

VOL. VIII.

STATE COLLEGE, PA., MAY, 1894.

No. 2.

## THE FREE LANCE.

*Published monthly during the college year by the Students  
of the Pennsylvania State College.*

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*Single Copies, . . . . . .15*  
*Payable in advance.*

Contributions of matter and other information are requested from all members and ex-members of the College.

Literary matter should be addressed to the Editor.

Subscriptions, and all business communications, should be addressed to the Business Manager.

*Entered at State College Post Office as second class matter.*

THE same old thing that has been spoken of so often in the LANCE, is again making itself apparent, and this time more forcibly than ever. We speak of the lack of interest in, and degeneration of the literary societies.

It is extremely unpleasant for us to take up the old hue and cry on this one subject of all those that come before the college calling man.

There was a time, now long past, when there

was a healthy rivalry between our literary societies and, as is always the case, this served to make them better. Great interest was taken in the work and much good literary work was done and men were turned out from both societies who were a credit to their society and their Alma Mater.

Every man who gives the subject a moment's consideration, knows the good to be derived from literary societies and from participation in any kind of literary work. It gives a man confidence in himself, teaches him to express himself clearly and correctly both in speaking and writing and enables him, should the occasion ever present itself to stand before his fellow men and speak to them intelligently and fearlessly on any subject that the occasion demands. Men who cannot in these ways express themselves are always at a disadvantage and always regret the neglect of their opportunities.

We do not attempt to deny, for it is a fact too self-evident that we have comparatively little time to devote to literary work. This being a technical school it must necessarily be so. For this reason, particularly, we should take greater interest in our societies. The time spent in the study of our language is short. The amount of literary work required of us is small, and the only way left for us to acquire correctness of expression and self-possession before our fellows is by work performed in society, in declamation, debate and oratory.

Every man must certainly realize the fact and every one should reflect upon it and join one of the societies. The trouble with us is not entirely with the non-society students. We have good men in the societies, but they are lazy or indifferent. They either do not attend meetings or do not prepare good programmes, and as a result the society might as well not be, for all the good they get out of it.