

FOR the last two or three years, the classes, upon their advent to the Senior year, have expected that they would be excused from military exercises. The present Seniors have more nearly approached the realization of this dream than any previous class. After the battalion had been thoroughly organized and reached a reasonable state of perfection last term, the commissioned officers were required to drill only once a week; and since the Harrisburg trip, at the beginning of this term, they have not drilled at all, with the exception of important occasions. This good luck is due to the fact that it is impossible to supply two hundred students with rifles when there are only one hundred and fifty to distribute. With the organization of a signal corps some two years ago, everybody was thought to have been provided for, but the indications are that, with as large an entering class next year as the present Freshman, matters will be more crowded than ever.

With such a state of affairs, what could be better policy than exempting the members of the most advanced class from drill. This is quite a common custom among institutions where the students have increased beyond the equipment of the military department. Or because of a similar reason, the exercise is often made voluntary with the Senior, or Senior and Junior classes. We venture to say that there would be rare cases where the volunteers were so numerous as to exceed the accommodations at hand. It would seem advisable for the proper authorities to look into the matter, and if found necessary, to grant a release to such men as may have drilled regularly for three years. We do not mean to speak of this as an exemption from an irksome duty; for the students freely acknowledge that the drill is beneficial, but simply wish to call attention to a matter that must have been apparent to all.

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THE members of the Senior class, in several of the courses, have about completed arrangements for taking an extended trip during

the first part of next term. This way of becoming acquainted with the practical workings of plants or processes distinctively connected with the students' researches must commend itself to every one. It is impossible to conjecture a better way for a student to spend a week or ten days, of his last term in college, than in visiting plants directly connected with the bent of his studies, and having everything explained to him by one who has an intimate knowledge of the subject by making it his especial study. In any of our large cities there are many industries, interesting alike to engineers, chemists and physicists, as well as numerous works especially interesting to the men connected with any of these courses. This way of rounding off a technical education is heartily endorsed by all of our professors, and all Seniors should, if possible, make the tour.

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CAP and gown! O, ye shades of Vulcan and the Cyclopes, where are we at? Turn not away from thy votaries in anger and disgust, but we beseech you hearken unto our cries and cause to shine on us the inspiring rays from thy soot besmeared countenances. Let not thy wrath descend upon us. Witness our struggles for the right, and give us strength from thy right arm to withstand our brethren who would willingly cause us to insult thy sacred memory. Think you for an instant that they can succeed? Can we thy loving disciples and followers, having just finished a careful apprenticeship under thy thoughtful guidance, and about to enter into life as thy journeymen and devotees;—can we walk through this important and glorious stage of the game in the sombre garb of a mediæval priest, and of a hue as black and funereal as the smoke that arises from thy everlasting forges?

Surely not. Coming from the forge, from the transit, from the draughting-room, and from the laboratory, there is a protest which says that this thing shall not be. Folly and ingratitude are written on the brows of those who propose such a