

THE FREE LANCE.

"His good blade carves the casques of men, for the Free Lance thrusteth sure."

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ENVIRONMENTS OF THE STATE COLLEGE.

THERE is probably no school in America that cannot refer to some peculiarities of its natural surroundings which make it an especially favored site for certain kinds of studies in Natural History. Thus the University of Illinois is surrounded by its rich and characteristic fauna and flora of the prairie; the Ohio State University is over the fossiliferous Devonian formation, and is on the bank of a river teeming with fluviatile life, both plants and animals; the University of Chicago and Cornell are on lakes where an abundance of lacustrine creatures can be studied; Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Stanford, and the University of California are practically on the sea coast, where marine biology can be made a conspicuous feature of study; the Universities of Colorado and of Utah are up in the Rockies, where the native living organisms are different from those found in any other place above mentioned, and other institutions have their local peculiarities.

Yet in the advantages of natural surroundings The Pennsylvania State College is not behind any of these, although it is not able to boast features of aquatics, prairies, or high western mountains. It is certainly true that those subjects in which field studies are made here are greatly facilitated by the many natural advantages which this region