

THE ORIGIN OF THE MASK BALL.

FEW of the many persons who will attend the mask ball to be held on the twenty-second of this month under the auspices of the base ball department of the Athletic Association, know anything of the early history of this event which is each year looked forward to with so much interest by almost everyone connected with the College. Yet it has a history, and an interesting one, too.

In the winter of '90-91, there was formed by some of the students an organization known as the "State College 400," its object being, in the words of '92 La Vie, to succeed in "purifying and pruning State College Society." At that time, six or eight young ladies resided at the Cottage. Strange as it may seem, about the same number of students of the opposite sex found it convenient to call at the Cottage rather frequently; so frequently in fact that a number of their less fortunate class mates, inspired by what appears to have been jealousy, but what they termed necessary reform, united their efforts in a crusade against the Cottage. The charter members of the society were Weidner, Herr, Crawford, Kessler, Read, Stevenson, Edwards, Bowman, Pratt, Sommerville, Damon, Lloyd, Holter, Williamson, and Belt, Weidner being the first president, and Herr, secretary and treasurer. Their motto, *Dans Societie Jamais Dans Cottage* (In Society; never in the Cottage) gives in brief the function of the organization. No member was permitted to enter the Cottage upon any pretext whatsoever. So strictly was the boycott enforced that several of the members were expelled on account of having disgraced themselves by calling at the Cottage on a certain occasion.

It appears that, in the minds of the 400, the punishment inflicted upon the young ladies was not sufficient to cover the enormity of their crime of having especially favored a certain few callers. In order to further increase the penalty, they arranged for a mask ball, with the express specification that all persons in any way connected with the Cottage should be denied the privilege of taking part in it. Accordingly, there was held in the College