reading or study the more he will develop, and the more will he correctly employ the good opportunities which lie open to him while in college. No man, no matter what he is to engage in after-life, should slight the privilege presented by our library. There seems to be an erroneous idea prevalent that books are for the pollers or those who are to study for degrees. One of the best aids to general culture is the generous use of the library and the proper employment of time in reading.

The reply of the professor led us to make inquiries concerning the reading clubs. We found that clubs had been started among the students for the purpose of honest, sober reading, and that reading to compass the best of English literature, from Chaucer down. The intention of these men is to follow the course of the Dean’s Junior year English. They propose reading a small amount of Canterbury Tales, a portion of Spenser’s Fairie Queen, and so on through the list of English writers, taking up the books which the Dean recommends. During the winter term they will intersperse a play of Shakespeare throughout their regular readings.

Each evening there will be a paper or essay read. On beginning with an author the paper will treat of the interesting part of his life, with special reference to the circumstances under which the writings were produced. Later a more critical paper will be given. Such action on the part of those thus engaged merits hearty commendation, and we praise them particularly for the fact that it is anticipatory of the Dean’s course, as we learn the clubs are formed in the class of ’92.

The benefits of such a course cannot all be estimated. It is especially advantageous in developing the minds and thoughts of men. It will make broad men of them. Besides the culture and the deepening and broadening of their minds they will be possessed of a general knowledge of English literature, the value of which will become more

and more apparent to them each successive year of their lives. It is advisable not only for the rest of the men in ’92 but also those in other classes to form such clubs. Let the circles be small but let there be a large number of them. Their interesting, not to say their instructive character, will be appreciated by experience.

THE YOUNG WRITER’S USE OF THE LIBRARY

If men are expecting to write, and this applies to every man while he is in college, a proper knowledge of how to use a library is of special value. Many men write from “natural vigor, native simplicity, unaffected eloquence or deep experience of human life;” they have perhaps great creative genius. Such men were Lincoln in that superb and unparalleled classic, the address at Gettysburg, and Wordsworth in “Ode to Duty.” In such cases a library is not necessary or of especial service. But all do not do either of the above, in fact few have the opportunity. Men in college must rely on research and frequent visitations to the library, and a proper skill in the use of books cannot fail to be of value. They should know the relative importance of the index, the worth of the foot-notes and how much to read of the body of the work. For it is not by reading every book through from cover to cover that we may get the most from it, but it is the skill in culling all that is valuable for the present purpose from the whole book. The art of comprehending quickly what an author is writing about should be cultivated. In the different professions men are to carry conviction to the minds and hearts of their fellow-men. To do this they must base their knowledge on exhaustive familiarity with the subject. In the rush and whirl of active life a man to be up with the times must be able to get his knowledge quickly. If he has
formed a habit of using books intelligently he will have a pronounced advantage. Men who are to be lawyers and men who are to be doctors, or even merchants, should never begrudge the time spent in collecting facts for an essay or debate. If they have allowed themselves to be benefited by such training, they will look back upon it as one of the most excellent courses in the curriculum. If the power of rapid discrimination, quick insight and thorough comprehension when seeking material for essay, oration or debate, be cultivated, the man will have furnished himself with an outfit which is inestimable.

The lawyer needs it when making up his case. The medical student needs it in his preparation, the physician in his advanced studies. There is no doubt that if the value of such a training were rightly understood men would make the use of the library for their required essays or debates yield them a harvest of benefit which they never dreamed could be theirs. So whether in reading circles or in private research we do well to practice the art of finding the essence of what we are reading, and that quickly. And then we cannot possibly fail of valuing the use of the library at its true worth.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

"Lord, Lord, how the world is given to lying!"
—Henry IV.

"For by art if a lie may do thee grace,
I'll join it with the happiest terms I have."
—Henry IV.

"Oh, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!"
—Merchant of Venice.

"To easy as lying."
—Hamlet.

"Be merry all, be merry all,
With holy dree the festive ball;
Prepare the song, the feast, the ball,
To welcome merry Christmas."
—W. R. Spencer.

"The time draws near the birth of Christ:
The moon is hid; the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist."
—in Memoriam.

THE strange and unprecedented history which football is making this year seems to be the only topic of conversation among college men. Conjectures, opinions and in fact all the side lights imaginary are given with a lavish hand. The words of indignation, the feelings of disappointment and regret, the expressions of scorn, the eager questioning, with the shouts of triumph and the joyful congratulations, would make a strange medley could they all be collected and preserved. We have been college politicians with an unwonted energy. All sides are discussed with vehemence at the clubs and on the campus, and so many conflicting reports and opinions have been prevalent that all the abilities of the statesmen and the politician have been brought into play in our college world to enable us to cope with this momentous question. Every man would see college athletics put in an honorable light, and we justly feel indignant at untrue charges made against us. We will wait the outcome of this unusual agitation, however, and we confidently expect to see Princeton eventually benefited ten-fold more than there was a possibility of her being injured. Princeton needs but to be truthfully represented and she will stand her own with every other American college.