

A French Opinion of Cornell.

Last summer, M. Urbain Gohier, the well known Paris journalist and leader of the militant Anti-Military party in France, paid a visit to the United States. Mr. Theodore Stanton, '76, gave him letters to some of the Faculty, and, though he landed in New York on the Monday of Commencement week, he left the same day for Ithaca, where he remained till the following Saturday or Sunday. An account of this sojourn among us is given in the book which M. Gohier has just published in Paris, under the title of "Cinq Mois aux Etats Unis." Here is what the author says of Cornell:

Ce que les chemins de fer américains ont accompli pour le défrichement et la mise en valeur de cet immense territoire, les Universités américaines sont en train de l'accomplir pour la culture intellectuelle de cette immense nation. L'œuvre des chemins de fer est plus avancée que l'œuvre des Universités, parce qu'elle a été poussée d'abord; mais la génération prochaine trouvera réunis tous les éléments d'un travail intense, ordonné, fécond.

La première où je pénétrai, aussitôt après avoir débarqué, fut Cornell University, dans la petite ville d'Ithaca. Autour de cette Ithaque, il y a d'autres cités qui s'appellent Utique, Athènes, Bethléem, Genève, Lucerne, Syracuse: tous les noms du Vieux Monde transplantés dans le nouveau.

Cornell University porte le nom de son fondateur, enrichi dans le commerce; d'autres nouveaux riches ont multiplié les donations, pour lire leurs noms sur des plaques commémoratives. Les bâtiments couvrent le sommet d'une charmante colline entourée de bois, de gorges profondes, d'horizons pittoresques, et dominant un beau lac au nom indien. Les maisons des professeurs sont dispersées dans la verdure, parmi les vergers et les prairies. Les étudiants vivent en ville, à leur guise, soit isolément, soit groupés dans des clubs ou "Fraternités" d'une installation plus que confortable. Chacun s'arrange selon ses moyens. Quelques-uns sont défrayés par leur Etat ou leur ville. D'autres travaillent chez des particuliers pour gagner leur subsistance tout en suivant les cours.

Les étudiantes, au nombre d'environ quatre cents, logent dans un bel édifice de l'Université. Elles suivent les mêmes cours que les jeunes gens: et comme elles bénéficient du régime de la coéducation, elles sont appelées les "coeds". Avec leurs toges noires sur des robes claires, avec leur pittoresque bonnet carré à gland, elles ont un air fort mutin.

C'était alors la semaine finale de l'année scolaire, qu'on nomme pour cette raison *commencement week*; les meetings de Labadens, les bals, les représentations, les thés, les parties de golf se succédaient; les Fraternités étaient en fête tous les soirs; le gouverneur de l'Etat de New-York venait présider à la distribution des brevets; puis, la victoire des équipes de Cornell aux régates universitaires de Poughkeepsie changeait la joie en délire. . . Quelle différence avec la vie malsaine et triste de nos étudiants, qui sont sortis du lycée-prison pour tomber dans la caserne, et qui viennent ensuite flétrir les plus belles années de leur jeunesse dans des écoles sombres, dans des brasseries, dans la détestable atmosphère des grandes villes! Mais ceux de Cornell sont trop heureux: quand ils ont passé quatre années en cette retraite idéale, ils doivent trouver bien dures les tribulations de la vie réelle. Ils mangent là leur pain blanc le premier. Ils durcissent leurs muscles dans les sports, mais leurs nerfs ne sont pas éprouvés. On comprend que, plus tard, ils reviennent avec attendrissement aux cérémonies de l'Université, pour se rappeler les bons jours.

Il y avait à ce moment un grand débat dans le corps enseignant au sujet des robes universitaires, nouvellement introduites. Une partie des professeurs éblouissaient le public en déployant des couleurs éclatantes; et c'étaient les professeurs mariés; les célibataires, en général, avaient dédaigné de se travestir en perroquets et protestaient par la simplicité de leurs jaquettes.

L'Etat de New-York a généreusement concouru à la fondation de Cornell University, qui est en plein essor. Il y vient des élèves de toutes les parties de l'Union,

de la Chine et du Japon. La colline universitaire deviendra promptement une ville, et l'accroissement de valeur des terrains, possédés par les héritiers du premier donateur, les dédommagera de l'héritage diminué. Il faut aller aux Etats-Unis, pour voir la vertu récompensée et les bonnes actions devenir de bonnes affaires. . . A noter que la bibliothèque de Cornell University renferme une très importante collection de livres et documents sur la Révolution française.

CORNELL THIRD.

West Point Wins Fencing Tournament—Good Showing.

The annual intercollegiate fencing tournament held in New York city on Saturday, was won by West Point. Cornell finished third, being beaten for second place by Columbia. The meet was one of the most closely contested in years, this being evidenced by the fact that the individual medal was tied by three men, Breckinridge, of West Point, Clack, of Columbia, and Honeycutt, of West Point. The total score of the winning team was 35 points, an excellent record.

The Cornell team fenced uniformly, each man winning six and losing nine bouts. With West Point, Blount won from Scott and was defeated by the other two men, and Bowman defeated both Honeycutt and Scott, losing to Breckinridge.

The teams and the final scores were as follows, the order being that in which they finished: West Point, 35; Columbia, 31; Cornell, 22; Yale, 19; Pennsylvania, 16; and Harvard, 12. It will be noticed that this is the first year that Annapolis did not enter a team. A separate meet between the latter and Cornell will be held in April.

Now that the Intercollegiate fencing tourney is over, the attention of Coach Audrand will be devoted to the dual meets with Annapolis and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology teams, to be held in April. The definite arrangements of these contests have not as yet been completed, but the indications are that the former will be held at Annapolis, and the latter in Ithaca.

About 30 men are now in active training and the contests for the Amsler medals in May promise to be exceptionally close, in spite of the fact that several of the team fencers are ineligible to compete, having already won the medals in past years. Among the new candidates who have showed ability with the foils are several South Americans.

The showing at the Intercollegiate was very good, considering that this year has marked a change in the coaching technique, the French modified school having taken the place of the Italian-Franco style taught by Former Coach Brigandi of the Italian Cavalry. It was hoped, however, that Cornell would at least tie Columbia for second honors. West Point having been conceded first place. Nevertheless Coach Audrand is satisfied with the showing of the men and expects a double victory in the April contests.

—The building committee of the University, of which Robert H. Treman is chairman, has inspected New Sibley and formally accepted it in behalf of the University. A few changes will be made under the direction of Mr. Gibb. Owing to the lateness of the completion there will be no formal opening.

TO HOLD CONFERENCE.

College Presidents Will Discuss Advisability of Shortening Course to Three or Two Years.

The calling of a conference of the university and college presidents of the country for a discussion of the advisability of shortening the college course to three, or even two years, for those who supplement it by a professional course, presages an important epoch in American methods, says the Chicago Record-Herald.

Such a gathering of distinguished educators will be held May 8 and 9, 400 invitations having been sent out recently by the Northwestern University, under whose auspices the conference will be held. The invitations are to the heads of the institutions themselves, with the request that either they or some representative men of the Faculty be present. The sessions will be held in the Northwestern University Building, at Lake and Dearborn streets, Chicago.

Means New System.

Educators see in this conference, together with the recent adoption of a three-year course at Harvard, what may mean a breaking away from the traditions of years in American colleges and the adoption of a system similar to that of the German universities, where a two-year course in the gymnasiums has been sufficient preparation for the professional schools. While no action is intended, further than a general discussion, and it is not intended even that resolutions shall be adopted, it is probable that the influence of the conference will be far-reaching in its effect.

Simultaneous with this call Northwestern is taking steps to shorten its course, so that students contemplating the law, theology or pharmacy courses may do the college work in three years, and those intending to take the medical course can get their full college credits in two years.

The medical courses of all colleges is required by State law to be four years, and the college course, by means of electives which are required in medical training, will be able to give the student in medicine a year's work in his line before he enters the medical school. By a similar transfer of credits from the medical course to that of the college the student will be able to complete the eight years' work in six years.

"The shortening of the course in the universities is likely to go hard with the smaller colleges which have no professional departments," said Professor Holgate, Dean of the Northwestern. "Very many of those taking college courses afterwards go into the professional schools, and if they can save one year or two years by attending an institution that gives credits from its professional schools, they are likely to attend there."

Sophomore Society Elections.

The following elections have been made to Dunstan:

Williams Chambers Shepard; Benjamin Oliver Williams; Ernest O. P. Waud; Charles Carroll White; Richard Tolin; Anton Vonnegut; Philip Lewis; William Voris; George W. S. Platts; William Lowdon Wilson.

'02, A.B.—Miss A. A. O'Brien is now residing at Ellicottville, N. Y.

'02, A.B.—Miss Gladys Hobart is now residing at Boonville, N. Y.

Banquet in Washington.

The Cornell alumni of Washington and vicinity held their 23d annual dinner at the Hotel Barton, March 19. Dr. L. O. Howard of the Class of '77 presided and introduced the speakers in his characteristic manner. Professor T. F. Crane, Dean of the University Faculty, spoke in behalf of the University, reviewing its history and detailing the progress during the past year. Some time was also devoted to explaining plans for future improvements.

He touched upon the prevalence of typhoid, declaring that the Faculty were adopting every measure to stamp out the disease, and that a filtration plant would be installed before the time for the opening of the fall term.

The Hon. Robert B. Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury Department and alumnus of the Iowa Agricultural College, gave statistics showing that at least one Cornell man was found in almost every branch of the Government service.

The Hon. E. C. Russel, '79, was introduced as "Judge Russel of Montana." In explanation of the title, Mr. Russel said that he had once been elected a Justice of the Peace, and gained his title by one decision he had made. In reversing the decision the superior officer said that it was the most remarkable decision of modern times, as the man had been arrested, tried and convicted before he was caught. The speaker also related many happenings in the early days of Cornell.

Dr. D. E. Salmon, '72, and David K. Goss, '92, responded to toasts, both of which were in a reminiscent strain.

Dr. H. W. Wiley of the Department of Agriculture, and an alumnus of Harvard, gave a most quaint and humorous review of the relations of the college man to "race suicide."

A letter was read from Senator J. B. Foraker, '69, expressing his regrets at not being able to be present.

Among those present were B. W. Everman, Special Lecturer of the College of Forestry; Filbert Roth, former Assistant Professor of Forestry, and Theodore A. Koch, former Custodian of Dante Collection of the University Library.

The Cornell alumni present included D. E. Salmon, Richard Rathbun, George H. Walker, J. O. Howard, A. M. Farrington, E. C. Russel, J. D. Whelpley, Charles Chisholm, C. A. McAllister, W. P. Cutter, William Stranahan, L. C. Corbett, J. C. M. Hanson, P. G.; A. V. Babine, J. S. Miller, P. C. Adams, H. H. Burroughs, G. H. Powell, George K. Woodworth, J. J. Cain, Fred H. Hayn, G. P. Ritter, H. P. Gould, P. G.; R. T. Brooks, C. B. Simpson, R. J. Neeley, A. J. Klinkhart, Leon W. Gray, Thomas Howe, A. K. Theissan, David K. Goss.

The article from the pen of Coach Jennings in another column of this issue will give alumni as good an idea of the prospects of the baseball nine as can be obtained before the men start on their Southern trip. Coach Jennings has had much to contend against in developing a good nine but he seems hopeful of obtaining good results.