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February 17, 1891.

"The Voice."

Vol. XIII, No. 1,

Editor - Mr. A. L. Fitch.

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## Editorial.

It is with a feeling of some disappointment that we come before you this evening, for after the annual assignment of places on the program, nearly a year ago, when our name appeared alone as the editor of this number of the Voice, we waited anxiously to know who would be our fellow-editor.

Finally when one was appointed we felt relieved and thought that at last we would have one to share the burdens that are, and what ever honors may be attached to the position.

But alas for our expectations for after a nicely arranged had been decided on, we were left alone again by the temporary (we hope) but unavoidable disability of our co-laborer, and were forced to seek assistance in another direction.

While writing the above we happened to take up the program

for the past year, and we struck  
as perhaps many of you have been,  
with the number of changes (nine)  
that have been made in assign-  
ment of parts, and this adds one  
more to the number, ~~although~~  
~~it does not appear in print!~~

The causes have been nearly  
as numerous as the changes, and  
while seven of them were necessi-  
tated by resignation of the mem-  
bers, ~~(who now assigned the~~  
~~parts)~~ yet neither they, nor the  
others, indicate decay or a lack  
of interest in the affairs of the  
class.

While they are all unavoidable,  
yet it is more the less unfortu-  
nate that they should occur,  
and it is to be hoped that the  
year before us will see fewer of  
them.

The next year's program offered  
for our consideration at the last  
meeting, deserves a few words.  
In two ways ~~at least~~ it is  
different from those of preceding  
years - at least those within

my knowledge. The first, and to my mind more important is the assignment of the Voice to every third meeting, instead of every second meeting as formerly.

It seems to me that the object of the class should be, not so much to exhibit our talent, (though it is commendable in those fortunate enough to possess literary ability) but to enable us to learn the most possible, and that end is gained better by papers on subjects assigned by the committee, than by the Voice.

I refer now particularly to the member whose part it is to write on the Voice, than to the members as a whole.

For instance, the Voice may be composed entirely of material with which the writer is thoroughly familiar, and which gives little opportunity or occasion for study, or learning something new, whereas the subjects assigned by the committee will almost

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inevitably require study and research, which is sure to add to the writer's store of knowledge, and later to that of the other members when the paper is read.

The second point of difference in our new program, is the continuation of one general subject through the entire year, which will give a much better knowledge of the subject than its consideration for one evening only.

Of course it might be said that if several subjects were considered, the knowledge gained would cover a wider range, but on the other hand we should not know so much about any one of them; and one thing well done is better than several only partly done.

## Plug hats of Chinese origin.

It is a curious fact, unknown to the vast majority of people, that the first silk hat was made about fifty years ago; that, like so many other articles which are common and of every-day use, it was of Chinese origin. The story runs that a French sea captain on the coast of China, desiring to have his shabby bear hat replaced by a new one, took it ashore, and, as they had not the material, they made a silk one instead. This, it appears, happened in 1832, and he carried the hat to Paris that same year.

Then it was immediately copied, and in a few years became a regular style.

Copied and

Contributed by J. C. F.

## Contributed.

The Voice has asked me to speak for him this month, not because of any similarity between him and John Alder, for I have observed he can speak for himself if occasion requires.

But this Voice of Phi Sigma seems to be an organ, a little slow of speech, and perhaps does not always make the best use of its opportunities.

I have been thinking this past month, of what real use is the Voice to Phi Sigma, and how can it be made a most profitable and interesting branch of our work.

It seems to me it should be and can be made such if we put our whole thought and mind on it, during the time that is given us to prepare our part.

But we all know from dissatisfied efforts, how hard it is

amid the rush of business cares, and excitement of social pleasures, to have our minds on something that is to come several months ahead.

Then too, we do not all have equal ability to express ourselves and our claims are not so fertile as some of those in more direct lines of literary work.

But we all think, and have opinions about different matters.

And so it seems to me if we take up the thought or subject that interests us most, and bring it to the Voice, it will speak to some of us, if not all, with interest and perhaps much profit.

Having the past few months my mind has been filled, growing and expanding with such enthusiasm for the work that Miss Elizabeth Garrison is performing in the field of Kindergarten Schools; and as I have heard her lectures "to the mothers" each

wish, some from her own mouth, and others through her assistants, I have wished that the mothers, and every body who have children to care for, could have in their thoughts and hearts, such wisdom and love to develop the child's nature in the best possible way, not only for the child's good, but when he shall become a man, and be called upon to help friend, neighbor State and Country.

'Tis not only to mothers and guardians she appeals, but to all who love the children, and humanity at large; for we all owe them far more attention and respect than most of us are wont to give them.

In the great work which Froebel the German instituted, and whose thoughts Miss Garrison strives to put into our minds, he so strongly emphasized that we must all "become as little children", and have that

simplicity and happiness with the children, that you always see in a healthy child.

Do not be too exacting in order to carry out some <sup>pet</sup> theory or rule, for hardly any two children can be trained alike. Study <sup>the</sup> child's nature and try to meet its demands, thus unfolding the child's life in all that is best, purest and most noble.

Think then of the responsibility that rests upon all of us, let us always ready to serve the child in the best possible manner, in whatever way we may be associated with it.

Froebel says, "Mothers, live more with your children than for them."

"Encourage simplicity and unconsciousness of dress, that English wholesomeness."

"Earnest in play assures earnest work, in child."

"Advance your own ideal and

the child will aim at it."

"Teach children to help themselves"

"Build up virtues in child and not emphasize faults."

"Teach courtesy, love, & unselfishness, by being courteous, lovable, and unselfish to the child, and every one we meet in life."

Many many more helpful thoughts might be suggested, but the time I have will not allow.

The subject of punishment, Miss Garrison takes up in a most pleasing way, but how practical it might always be I am not so sure about. She advocates retributive punishment almost always, and would never whip a child.

"Show the child the results of wrong-doing, and that every offense against right is punished."

Finally, harmony in the child's

life, with the outer world, brings it to a sense of the spirituality, and it grows to recognize spiritual truths.

In closing my theme I would recommend to those interested in this wonderful study and development of child nature, Froebel's book, "The Education of Man," and particularly would it be interesting to the mothers of Phi Sigma's little ones.

May E. Fitch.

Feb 17/91

## Some Notes on "Mosses from an Old Manse".

I have been interested lately in reading a book familiar no doubt to most if not all of you, but which was quite new to me, *Mosses from an Old Manse*.

I had heard it mentioned and heard extracts from it many times, but never had read it until recently when it came into my possession.

On reading through the author's description of the Old Manse, its immediate surroundings and the neighbouring country I was struck by what seemed to me his very erratic style, in jumping from one subject to another.

His description of the various places and objects is very interesting to me who has been there and seen them, but my visit was so long ago that I have not a very vivid recol-

lection of what I saw though some points of interest are recalled by the narrative.

One is the grave of the two British Soldiers, nameless to us at least, slain in the battle of Concord, and who lie buried beside the stone wall that separates the grounds of the Old Manse from the road.

These were the first of the invaders who fell in the struggle our forefathers made for their rights, and against oppression.

This subject of the Revolution naturally recalls the name of Washington, the anniversary of whose birth will occur only a few days hence.

The Authors description of the house and surroundings reminds me of many of the old New England houses, with their long low roofs, spacious grounds, with an abundance of fruit and shade trees, shrubery &c.

I never have had the pleasure of a visit to the Old Manse, but it must have contained a great many old things which, to a lover of the antique, would have been very interesting, also many others no doubt of little or no use.

It has been my good fortune to visit the attics of other old houses, where I found relics of past years, in almost endless variety of forms, some of which were part their day's of usefulness, and others which had been put away as being old fashioned and out of style, but which if brought out now, would be very much in style.

The Manse is particularly interesting on account of the prominence of most of its occupants, among whom were, its builder Mr Emerson, the grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the Rev. Mr Ripley who succeeded him, and Hawthorne. Emerson also spent much of his time there.

And now let us turn to the "Mosses," themselves. I will not attempt to discuss each one in detail, but merely to give a few impressions for me to you reading them over.

The first one that impresses me is the apparently almost utter improbability of such events as an narrator, having occurred, or ever occurring in the future.

In fact, they are most, if not all, purely imagination, yet not wholly without some moral to be drawn from them.

Two of them, "The Birthmark," and "Pappaccini's Daughter," similar, yet different, show how a man may become so deeply interested in one thing as to be sacrifice away with it, and forget, or rather consider subordinate to it all else, even those things which one would naturally think worthy of more consideration.

Each of these two stories represents a man so wrapped up in his scientific discoveries and investigations as to be willing to sacrifice, on his wife, and the

other his daughter in order to demonstrate a theory. There is this difference between them however,

There is this difference between them however, that one was striving by means of his knowledge to remove what seemed to him the only defect in his wife's otherwise perfect physical beauty: which in itself may have been a laudable desire were it not for the fact that he allowed this one slight physical imperfection to outweigh all mental or moral attributes of character.

The other sought to pursue his investigations at the expense of his daughter's happiness, by filling her system so full of poison that she poisoned everything that came within her influence, and when the effects of the deadly drug which had become so intimately incorporated into her life, were removed or neutralized, she could no longer exist, and died from the effects of the very thing that was expected to benefit her.

An extract of the description of the "Select Party" given by a "man of Fancy" at his Castle in the Air, is not applicable to this paper. It refers to the library, and is as follows.

"In the alcove of another vast apartment was arranged a splendid library the volumes of which were incalculable because they consisted not of actual performances, but of the works which the authors only planned without ever finding the happy season to achieve them." To take familiar instances, here were the untold tales of Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims, the unwritten cantos of the "Fancy" given the conclusion of Coleridge's "Christabel" and the whole of Huyden's projected epic on the subject of King Arthur. The shelves were crowded, for it would not be too much to affirm that every author has imagined and shaped out in his thoughts more and far better works than those which actually provided

from his pen." "And here, likewise, were the unrealized conceptions of youthful poets who died, of the very strength of their own genius before the world had caught one inspired murmur from their lips."

Our unmarried men boys might get some useful hints from the experience of Mr Bullfug. In his youth he formed an ideal of what the young lady must be, whom he would be willing to marry.

In the first place she must be young and possess all the virtues imaginable; but the actual Mrs Bullfug was very far from coming up to his standard.

The author says,

"It makes me melancholy to see how like fools some very sensible people act in the matter of choosing wives." "They perplex their judgements by a most undue attention to little niceties of personal appearance, habits, disposition

and other trifles which concern  
nobody but the lady herself."

"An unhappy gentleman, resolving  
to wed nothing short of perfection  
keeps his heart and hand till  
both get so old and withered  
that no tolerable woman will  
accept them." "Now, this is the  
very height of absurdity."

"A kind Providence has so  
skilfully adapted sex to sex and  
the mass of individuals to each  
other that, with certain obvious  
exceptions, any male and female  
may be moderately happy in  
the married state!"

"The true rule is to ascertain  
that the match is fundamentally  
a good one, and then to take it  
for granted that all minor ob-  
jections, should there be such,  
will vanish if you let them  
alone." "Only put yourself  
beyond hazard as to the real  
basis of matrimonial bliss and  
it is scarcely to be imagined  
what miracles in the way of

reconciling smaller incongruities  
concupital love will effect."

"The idea is that one must  
not expect more than he can give  
in return, and as none of  
us are perfect we should not  
expect to find perfection in  
any one else, for we certainly ~~do~~  
will be disappointed."

These are only hints from  
a few of the "Mosses" which  
I found very interesting and  
some quite amusing, and  
to those who admire Hawthorne,  
and have not read them, they  
are worth looking at.