

It was a saying of Byron, that "men of real genius are seldom candidates for college honours." Being but little addicted to philosophy, I shall not attempt to give the rationale of this apparent paradox but state what I have gathered from personal observation. There is more truth in this assertion than one unacquainted with college life and the method of distributing honours, would at first imagine. To satisfy one's self of this we need but consider the most prominent men for honours in the present classes. I will not contend that it holds true in all cases but the exceptions prove the rule good. Who are our "highest men"? Are they those of acknowledged superior talent? Or is not rather their superiority attained by the most laborious study? How few are there who peruse much else than their text-books? How few seek to improve the advantages afforded by our Libraries! Is my certain knowledge one of the most prominent men in the Senior class has not read one hundred pages of any standard work during this session. How contracted must be the information of those who engrossed in the one all absorbing consideration of college honour neglect to improve by consulting the popular and necessary works of our day. As a proof of this. How few of our 1st honora men are ever heard of in after life? How few rise to eminence. Cramped and broken down by premature and ill directed study they are compelled to seek subsistence in the capacity of schoolmasters. How foolish - the ambition which goads a man to such petty distinction and such consummate folly. Let no man despair of rising to eminence who is unsuccessful in attaining honours here. By this I would not be understood to discountenance all study. Proper discipline here will undoubtedly tell in after life though to this there may also be exceptions.

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