

idea of college matters in general and Princeton in particular. Again, every man in the college would make sure to possess himself of a copy, not only to show to his friends, but also as a souvenir of his *Alma Mater*.

If the book were made about the size of our *Eric-à-Brac*—and this would be a very convenient size—the cost of the two could differ but little or be much over a thousand dollars for the same number of copies. Therefore, all expenses could be paid by selling the book at one dollar per copy. The articles would of course be contributed by the professors, each representing the particular department on which he is best qualified to contribute.

The excellent and inexpensive methods of engraving from photographs, which have been introduced within the last year or two, make it possible to represent our magnificent buildings with pictures, which shall do them far more justice than the methods used in similar publications. The Lawrenceville School and the Princeton Preparatory School should each have their due place, inasmuch as they are important members of Princeton.

Both the situation of the college and its very democratic atmosphere make the college life of Princeton a peculiarly distinctive feature, and one which has its influence on every one of us. This, then, should find its chapter, and certainly no one could write it better than an undergraduate who is in its very midst, or an alumnus whose college days are still fresh in his memory.

Since other colleges are sending these books out through the country, not only with their *alumni*, but also to those who may wish to gain some adequate knowledge of the different colleges before fixing their choice, they certainly have no small advantage in their favor, for nearly every school boy enters that college about which he knows the most. Therefore, we feel justified in urging the need of a Princeton hand-book, and can be confident of its ready sale and immediate success.

A Suggestion about the Library.

PERHAPS nothing, at present, would be more conducive to the profit as well as solid enjoyment of a large body of the students, than an *evening session of the library*. One or two objections might be raised against such a scheme, but it seems to us that these are of so slight a character that, on a moment's reflection, they will entirely disappear. The expense connected with the lighting of the library is, perhaps, the most formidable objection; and yet, certainly, the college, in view of the benefits to be derived from an evening session, could well afford this. We cannot help wishing, if the scheme should meet with approval, that it might be made complete by the provision of an electric light, and the large Gramme machine that is being put up at the Scientific shops makes this entirely possible. Another objection that might be urged is, that the library is already open six hours, and this should be sufficient to satisfy all. Granted; but it would certainly be much more to the comfort and convenience of the students, were a quiet evening has been substituted for the impracticable one between 10 and 11 A.M., when most of them are occupied with the bustle of preparing and attending recitations. It would also probably meet with general approval, were the library kept closed in the P.M. until 2:30, and the half-hour thus gained also transferred to the evening session. By such an arrangement as this, the librarian would be required to spend no more time at his work than at present, and an evening session would be gained; say from 7:30 to 9 o'clock, affording ample opportunity for a leisurely consultation of books, and providing also a delightful retreat for many, in which to spend a quiet evening in the companionship of their beloved literary friends. The opportunities of so *convenient* an hour and a half would greatly increase the usefulness of the library. Added, so small an expenditure as

would be consequent upon the lighting, and, the great increase of benefit to the students, the scheme is certainly feasible and worthy of consideration.

An Historical-Novel Course.

THE province and aim of history proper and historical novels is not to be confounded. Froude says, "There are two kinds of truth. There is the truth of fact, which we require in the modern historian; there is the truth of nature and idea, which we demand of the poet and the painter," and, he might have added, of the historical novelist. History and historical novels are supplementary, and should be so considered. We believe that every student of history will find them invaluable adjuncts.

We come now to the problem of providing those who find a regular historical course dry and uninteresting with one that they will be willing to pursue. Can such a course be devised? We think it possible, and give below an outline course in historical novels, which, if faithfully followed, cannot fail to give a fair idea of the important periods in the history of the human race. If must be understood, however, that this is a mere outline, and must be filled in according to the time, advantages and taste of the reader. As a guide, and to prevent being misled by inaccurate statements, it is essential that some work like "Ploetz's Epitome" should be used in connection with the course. The advantages to be obtained from reading a book like "Freeman's General Sketch," are too obvious to mention.

"Zoroaster," by F. M. Crawford, deals with a most interesting period in the early history of the Aryan race. Zoroaster was the founder of a remarkably pure religion, and there has long been speculation in regard to the sources of some of his important doctrines. This book would incline

us to the belief that many of these doctrines were appropriated from the Jewish religion.

The veil of mystery which has long enveloped ancient Egyptian life and made it almost unintelligible to us, has, to a great degree, been lifted by a powerful novel, entitled "The Daughter of an Egyptian King." George Eber, the author, has endeavored to portray the life and manners of that strange people during the sixth century B.C., and the best critics agree that he has succeeded admirably.

A clear idea of life in Palestine and Rome during the first century is of great value for obvious reasons. Lew Wallace, in his novel "Ben Hur," not only gives us this idea, but completely enthalls us by the vividness of his descriptions and the intense interest he inspires in his characters.

"Hypatia," by Charles Kingsley, depicts the state of society during the first part of the fifth century A.D. Alexandria, where the scene is for the most part laid, was one of the last battle-grounds of Christianity and Grecian philosophy. These interesting conflicts do not lose anything in the hands of Kingsley. The corruptions, even then existing in the church, are shown.

It is said that George Eliot spent fifteen years in collecting material for her great novel "Romola." Florence and the world at large owe her an eternal debt of gratitude. By means of this work we gain an insight into Florentine customs and manners in the first portion of the fifteenth century, and are not only able to understand the life of that city, but also of all the Italian cities of the time.

Many of our best historical novelists have treated the different periods of English history. Some of their works are given below. As most of the novels referred to are well known, no lengthy description is necessary.

"Tales of Old English Life," by W. F. Collier, contains interesting and instructive stories of nearly all the older periods.