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VOLUME VIII OF "THE PANDORA."

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Preface.

If one short volume could comprise
All that is witty learned and wise,
How would it be esteemed and read!—*Swift.*

Since the time when Cadmus "or whoever it was that invented books," in presenting his volume to the reading public, saw fit in the beginning of his work to call the attention of the world to himself as the inventor of this new method of imposing on suffering humanity, it has been the custom of every author whether of an almanac or of a Cherokee Dictionary, to inflict upon his readers an account of the reasons that drove him to issue his volume and the trials attendant upon its issue. The Editors of the PANDORA would gladly omit any such a feature from their publication, but such a departure from the universal custom of mankind would not fail to bring down upon us the censure of all the devotees of the common sense philosophy.

An account of the trials, vicissitudes and misfortunes through which we have struggled, until at last we are able to present our book to you, it is needless to attempt; for neither space nor the patience of the reader will permit: suffice it to say that more than once the obstacles seemed insurmountable and despair almost overwhelmed the Editors. Such matters as the loss of an Editor-in-Chief in the very midst of the work, and the seeming utter impossibility of being able to obtain a firm financial footing, are examples of the difficulties with which we have had to contend. By dint of much labor we have been able to overcome them all, and are here to make our bow. The Non-Fraternity Club has aided us through all, and their editor has been of great service.

If you have taken up this volume thinking to gain from it an idea of the courses of study pursued in the various departments of the University, of the methods of instruction employed, of the standing of the men in their classes, and of the general excellence of our college as an institution of learning, we should advise you to lay it down without reading it, for you are destined to be disappointed. We would respectfully refer you to the catalogue, where you can gain information in plenty upon these points. This is not in our line. Our purpose has been to portray the life of the student.

Our picture is necessarily a caricature, for on this point also custom is inexorable, and demands that we be witty, though we be not 'learned and wise.' Yet we do not deem it necessary to apologize here to those whom we have thus been forced to paint in glaring colors, if they are not true colors, it is their fault and that of the world that laughs at them. We have tried to bow to the "universal opinion of mankind," and in the deepest sorrow and sympathy with those who are thus esteemed, we have shown what they appear to the college world. So if you don't like what we have said of you, go attack the college at large; we are but a looking glass that reflects its sentiments. We disclaim all responsibility for everything in this book and will not fight.

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