

A Shattered Idol, or Before and After.

I.

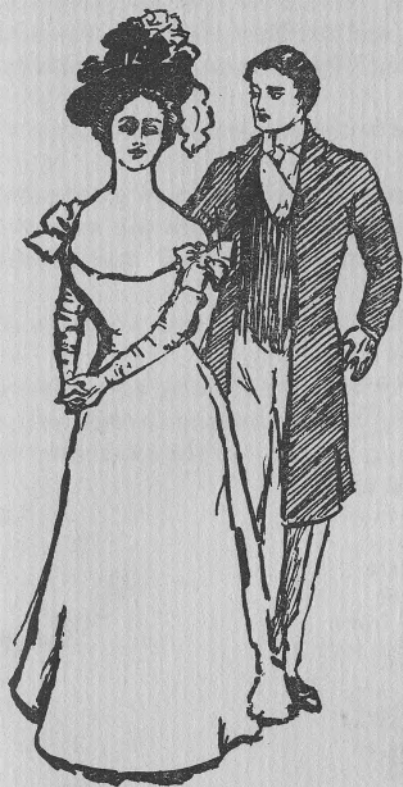
WITH haughty stride and pompous mien,
With collar high and necktie green;
Within his mouth a cigarette—
“A regular howling swell, you bet.”
Behold the student! Up-to-date—
The hottest number in the State—
The man who did the thing up brown—
Before the soldiers came to town.

II.

The frightened coppers slunk away,
The mayor trembled in dismay,
The darkies fled, the small boy ran.
Whene'er they saw the college man.
He took the sidewalk—took the store,
And sighed when he could take no more.
But no one dared to “call him down”
Before the soldiers came to town!

III.

The smiling merchants scraped and bowed
And sought him out among the crowd.
“What! Credit? Sure! Much as you will,
And take your time, sir, with the bill!”
From soda-fount to clothing-man
They bootlicked like the Senior can—
Oh, how they bent their sly heads down
Before the soldiers came to town!



IV.

The eager maids with witching smile,
Failing to reach his heart with guile,
Must sadly sit and softly sigh,
As proud and cold he passes by.
Whene'er they smiled he frowned them down—
Before the soldiers came to town!

V.

But ah! What transformation when
With heavy tread two thousand men
Poured o'er the streets—the shops o'errun
With rattling sword and savage gun.
Behold, the student—sad and meek,
Is glad to even walk the street
And in its mud his sorrows drown—
After the soldiers came to town!

VI.

No more do tradesmen, soft and bland,
Themselves trip up to clasp his hand,
But all is "cash" or else "move on"—
The college student's course is run.
The fickle girls speak as they pass
Of swords and guns, of belts and brass,
Of glistening spurs and "cute" mustaches,
Soldier-buttons, army-sashes.
Compelled to fill the second place
He feels an outcast from his race
And curses fate with scowl and frown
"Since those durn soldiers came to town!"

C.





C. L. G.
Paris '98

Senior Hop.

Deupree Hall,
June 21, at 9 P. M.

Committee:

T. W. RUCKER,
HARRY HULL,
D. V. HOPPS,
GARRARD GLENN (resigned).