





life which though I may have mentioned it to you before you have probably no  
very distinct recollection of. There are in the college two literary societies, organized  
somewhat on the plan of the old Themas; to one of these every man who comes here is  
admitted though he has it at his own option to join or not just as he pleases. Beside  
from these and entirely unconnected with the College as such are numerous secret  
societies, among which of course there is a constant and even flagrant rivalry. The most  
numerous of these societies is probably the P.K.E. but their superiority is that of numbers  
alone, for its members are seldom noted either for scholarship or literary ability.  
The most distinguished is the Alpha Belt, Phi. Very many of these remain in the Semina-  
ry and study for the Ministry. They are all, or almost all, Baptists or the sons of Baptist pa-  
rents and of course great favorites with the Faculty. They are perfect faculty pupes. They read  
nothing but the Faculty's own books and one of the Faculty tells them, and I am fully believe  
that if Dr. Anderson should tell them to fall down and worship him they would do it.  
They are not accustomed to the rough thrust grappling with thoughts and the consequent  
satisfaction of it - they learn as parrots do; - nor are they accustomed to single bold strokes  
which clear through small and helter-skelter to the goal. There is one good thing about  
them they almost always have their lessons, but aside from this they are good for nothing.  
They read but little and aside from text books are almost absolute fools. Opposed to them are  
the Phi U's - in almost every particular their opposites. Having none of their cringing hypo-  
critical, fanatical policy, they have no hesitation in regarding the battling of the professors  
upon every point which seems to them erroneous. They are not always the best  
scholars in their respective classes but they read a great deal and are usually strong  
strong fellows; hence arises the Society's well known literary character, and the great major-  
ity of literary success of our "nation" bear the diadem on their brows. "We are the  
youngest society in College but our frank manly yet cautious policy must succeed  
and we will compel them to grant us the position we desire. All these societies are conniv-  
ed in the regular College Societies, but in such proportions that the Alpha Belt rule the  
Pithonian and the Quakers the Euphie. I was allotted to the Pithonian but declared  
very often my intention not to join either of them. You see the Pithonian, they  
sophomore class, or those of it who belong to that Society, have a prize debate, and of course  
in addition to the personal desire to excel the strong incentive of party rivalry is added  
to members of the different societies. I was the only Phi U in the Society or rather the  
only one allotted to it. I had not joined nor will I. I was however elected a member  
and requested to join in the prize debate. The committee who were to give the decision were  
strongly Alpha Belt in their prejudices, so much so that one of them, though he has been  
often by past committees has never been known to give the prize to any one but an Alpha  
Belt. I thought nothing of entering myself about half an hour before the debate began  
if the boys said they wished I should join and I joined. I told them it was too late  
I was and went off to walk. After the debate had been begun some time Cass came and asked  
one of I would go up and debate extempore if he would get me a place. I said yes, and he  
told the president of the society he might call on me just when they saw fit. I was sit-  
ting away back among the audience but when I found they had procured me a place I  
followed among the speakers. When I did so there was a very visible agitation among the Alpha  
Belt and P.K.E. and it was very evident that they feared me. I have never yet worn the  
badge of the society and they could not say with certainty that I was a Phi U. It was however  
strongly suspected. When I stepped upon the stage they offered me almost every petty insult  
which could be shown in speaking, such as lunging, coughing and some of them  
making at me the greatest and most unprovoked and only a danger to my person.  
I was the only one of the debaters who had attended a recitation during the

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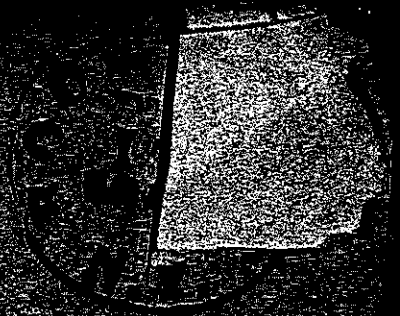
I cannot  
long tell you  
about all that  
little things which I wish to tell you  
made me proud last night and I hope I will  
you when you read it. I could have said more  
dreading last night of our intercourse with last  
He spoke honestly and candidly and with the fact  
that if they learned it I can assure you that I should  
be married tomorrow, and I believe I am going  
and entering into a union with a person  
who are now engaged (and you know that I should  
should be married at the same time, you know  
to the only wife among that I ever, who could  
say that you needed to guard an unblemished  
wedded husband, one who had never been  
guilty of an illegal deed, degraded or any  
to be had, not forestalled by pleasure of the  
suptentation and the pleasure of the  
you know that you are going to be with  
for perfect to perfect. I believe that I should

are aware how rare is such an instance among young men, I am almost an anomaly in this respect and am truly glad to be so. I don't know why it is but it has always been my pride and boast that I would come to the marriage bed as <sup>pure & undefiled</sup> the maiden who should share it with me; and thus far, through all temptations I have kept my resolution. Oftener when Beauty has striven to fascinate me and lead me on to guilt; when youth and innocence have offered me their fairest charms I have been enabled to say

Tell me in the French she says I am a  
 clear and way to better you. I am a  
 friend you are forgetting him to act  
 I don't see in will of fortune to write  
 their respective property.

Age bare thy bosom snowy white  
 I can endure the tempting sight  
 Can gaze on its voluptuousness  
 Nor wish to share thy fond caress  
 Age didat thou stand like Eve when first  
 Her charms an Adam's vision burst  
 Thy voice unweild & full of sweet  
 Each beauty woman'er possessed  
 I still could view each wondrous charm  
 Yet scarcely feel my pulses warm  
 And wert thy ten times less more fair  
 I'd not thy loveliness to share  
 For Woman thou canst'ner be mine  
 Till flighted at the Holy Shrive. You must not

criticize the above for it is satire. You will forgive me will you not for being proud that I have done something above what I thought it is true - but a duty which few young men perform, and few have more temptations to neglect than I have had. I boast of it only because I know that common



New York

June 1864

1864

1861  
Richardson

10/10