by subscribing to it, but also by contributing ideas and evincing an interest. If the men find fault with the paper, they are condemning themselves. The paper is what they make it. If they complain that one element of the institution is more largely noticed than another, they are simply acknowledging that the too prominent element is more energetic, more keenly felt in the institution than their own. The remedy is in the hands of the students, and is applicable by them alone.

We regret to say that events beyond our control have compelled us to withhold the portrait of Prof. Runkle until next issue.

Contributions.

**Mexico vs. Guatemala.**

_Mr. Editor,—_ Perhaps a few words about the recent difficulties between Mexico and Guatemala, and the position of the United States as a mediator between the two republics, may not prove devoid of interest to the readers of _The Tech_. The history of Mexico is almost entirely unknown to the great majority of the American people; indeed, Americans are much better acquainted with the history and customs of nations beyond the seas than with those of their next-door neighbor and sister republic, Mexico. It is incredible to what an extent Mexico is unknown to Americans. Why, in 1876, a friend of mine, an attaché of the Mexican Commission to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, was asked, by an intelligent American, why the Crown of Mexico was not represented at the Exposition. Many questions of the same tenor have been addressed to me. But perhaps Americans will say that Mexicans are fully as ignorant of the history of this country. It is so, as far as the masses of the people are concerned; but when we come to the middle classes and upward, we will find Mexicans better informed as regards the histories of the two republics.

The most general knowledge of Mexico up to quite recent times was something like this: Somewhere, way down in equatorial regions, where the palm, the olive, and the orange trees grow in abundance, and where the sun ever shines, there is a country inhabited by a people who are always engaged in cutting each other's throats, and those of the unfortunate foreigners who chance or dare to wander that way. Others, of a more romantic nature, would substitute: There is a country inhabited by dark-eyed maidens, and men who ever go wrapped up in their _serapes_ and under their wide-brimmed _sombreros_. Others, who had more pretensions to historical lore, would assert there was once a man by the name of Santa Ana, who was ever engaged in _pronunciamientos_, and who had a wooden leg.

On the other hand, a common idea of the United States, among the masses of the common people in Mexico, may be such a one as this: Away off in the far north is a country inhabited by _gringos hueros_, who drink a great deal of coffee and eat much ham. Or perhaps they know of the existence, in times gone by, of George and his little hatchet. All such preposterous ideas can be but detrimental to both nations, and no effort should be spared to bring about a better knowledge of each other.

But never, for an instant, would one imagine that such a prominent man as the ex-Secretary of State could be so little posted in the history of a country with which the one he represents is on such intimate terms of friendship, as revealed by the international correspondence between the heads of the State Departments of Mexico and the United States, through their respective ministers, concerning the boundary troubles of Mexico and Guatemala.

Any one who is acquainted at all with the history of Spanish America, under and after the Spanish dominion, might have known better than to assert, as Mr. Blaine has in his instructions to Minister Morgan, that Mexico's claims to the disputed territory of Chiapas and Soconusco date back only from the unfortunate and ephemeral reign of Iturbide. It is quite evident that Mr. Blaine gave such instruc-