suited to an Institute graduate. We would not insist that Institute men should take responsible positions immediately after graduation; but we think that they should find situations in which their natural and trained abilities should find play, and in which their already acquired knowledge might be of some practical utility.

There is a great difference in the men who graduate from the Institute or from any school. It is not wholly, of course, the knowledge that one has; neither is it one's natural ability: both must go together; and withal, the man must strive to understand himself and his own abilities as well as he understands his studies. There is a Chinese proverb, "Happy the man who knows, and knows what he knows. Less happy, though wise, he who does not know, and knows that he does not know. But deliver us from the learned ignorance of him who does not know, and does not know that he does not know."

It is to be earnestly hoped that no Institute graduate has applied for the position to which we have referred. We would suggest that the advertising firm be furnished with a catalogue, and also with tickets to our next graduation exercises. The reading of the one and attendance on the other might materially enlarge and improve their ideas of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

We take pleasure, when we review the events of the past year, in noting the great change for the better in the social life of the Institute. Among the requirements for a good citizen and successful man, there are many things just as important as the mere knowledge of one's business. Where social intercourse is not absolutely necessary for success in business, it is a wonderful help in making life run smoothly. It makes one more liberal in his views, and teaches him to have respect for the honest convictions and opinions of others. It brings men in the different walks of life together in a way that makes them love and help one another. Heretofore it would seem that the aim of a large majority of the students of the Institute has been merely to acquire a knowledge of the sciences, to the utter exclusion of all social life; but this, we are happy to say, has been gradually changing. Those who have attended our recent athletic and social gatherings have noticed not only an increase in numbers, but also an improvement in the quality of those who attend. The students now take an active interest in these gatherings, and pride themselves in giving them as high a character as possible.

Contributions.

President Walker.

FRANCIS A. WALKER, whose portrait we present in this issue, was born in Boston in 1840. He graduated at Amherst College when twenty years of age, and in 1861 he began the study of law at Worcester, but gave up his studies in July of that year to enter the army. He resigned from the service in 1865, having served on the staffs of Generals Couch, Warren, and Hancock, and for the last two years and a half as assistant adjutant-general of the Second Corps.

Between 1865 and 1868 he was instructor in Latin and Greek at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, and in 1868-69 was editor of the Springfield Republican. In the latter year he was appointed to the charge of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington. In 1870 he was appointed superintendent of the census. He organized and conducted the ninth census of the United States. During 1872 he held the office of commissioner of Indian affairs, in addition to that of superintendent of the census. In 1873 he became professor of political economy and history in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale College, which position he held till he assumed the presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During that period he published the following works: