The Alumni Column.

[This department can be made complete only by continued contributions of items of general interest in connection with the lives and occupations of alumni, graduates, and former members of the Institute. We invite the cooperation of each alumni, and ask for full and frequent contributions to the column.]

'79. F. B. Knapp, at present superintendent of buildings at Harvard University, has just been appointed instructor in drawing and surveying at the Lawrence Scientific School.

'79. C. S. Gooding has resigned his position as instructor in the Holy Communion College, Charleston, S. C., and gone into the manufacturing business in this city.

'79. F. R. Loring has gone to Cornell as assistant in the Chemical Laboratory.

'79. R. W. Lodge has returned from Nevada and will spend the winter in Boston.

'79. W. W. McFarlane, last year's assistant in the Freshman laboratory, has accepted a position as chemist in the Quaker City Dye Works, Philadelphia.

'81. Frank E. Cane has the position of first assistant engineer of the Toledo, Cincinnati and St. Louis R. R.

'81. Herbert A. Young has the position of second assistant engineer on the same railroad.

'82. Fred Darrow is draughtsman for Prof. T. M. Clark.

'81. E. M. Welch, special architect, is draughtsman at Rotch & Tilden's office in this city.

'84. E. C. Hillyer is draughtsman at the Patapsco Bridge and Iron Company's works in Baltimore, Md.

'84. F. F. Johnson, a former editor of the Tech, is with his father in the surveyor-general's office, Denver, Col.

'84. A. S. Pratt is employed in the Bank of North America on Franklin Street.

'85. R. B. Moore is attending a business college in Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

'85. B. F. Copeland is with the firm of Peabody & Co., Commercial Wharf.

The Varsity has always seemed to us rather as a comet appeared to the ancients. It has several of the characteristics of those gaseous exhalations, so far above the rest of us, which undertook to frighten everybody and run the world in general. A previous number of this luminary contains a very readable poem on "Quebec," which took some prize or other. The last stanza of the poem refers to the possibility of Canadian independence; and thus the critic of the Varsity improves his opportunity:

The aspiration for Independence is, at least, not unnatural or dishonorable, and, instead of carping at it, we prefer to congratulate our poet because he has not turned his pen to more ignoble use and hymned the praises of annexation. It would be strange indeed if the same poem which sung of Wolfe—the soldier who aspired to be a poet—should have ended in a panegyric of a nation in which persons of the stamp of Gen. Grant are the most conspicuous figures. Not that the nation is not a theme for song, but the singer should seek his inspiration from the Muse of Comedy. Under her guidance what might he not sing? He might tell of the purity of their public life, of the noble thirst of their members of Congress, of the bills which they sent in for spirited liquors consumed at their leader's funeral, for flowers cast upon his coffin. Or the serenity of their firesides might fire his tongue, and he would recount with pride how, in the facilities for bills of divorce and the hardness of their hearts, they had "whipped" the Israelites of old; in passing, he would glance also at the superior calibre of their children, at the extinction among them of such old-world follies as childishness, simplicity, and obedience. Or, winging a higher flight, he might aspire to paint (a second time) their beautiful women, and tell with what heat of stoves and furnaces, with what feasts of iced-water and candy, with what appliances of Saratoga-waves and horsehair, they have succeeded in diminishing their stature, in coloring their faces to the fashionable shade of yellow-green, and in removing the last lingering signs of nature's grace. Finally, after tracing some of the triumphs of which life is capable in such a land, he might not inaptly revert to the inspiring scenes which attend its close; and now would the supreme efforts of the panting muse be invoked to show in what a wealth of crape the widow hides her sorrows.