THE TECH.

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In this issue we give an account of the proposed excursion of the 2. M. E. Society to Philadelphia and vicinity. It will be remembered that a similar excursion was carried out very successfully last year, visits being made to many prominent manufactories and mills in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut.

These excursions, as a means of practical instruction for our students, are not to be despised, and the advantages gained by visiting these places in a body, and oftentimes at the special invitation of the proprietors, are very apparent. We hope this opportunity will be improved by every member of the society able to go.

One of the great questions at the present seems to be,—are we to have a Freshman ball this year? An account of the previous affairs of this kind has already been given, but may be again stated.

Previous to 1879 it was customary for the entering classes to give, in connection with the drill, afternoon dances in the gymnasium. In 1879 the entering class decided to establish a more formal affair, and a dance was given in the evening; the gymnasium being tastily decorated and the affair a decided success. The next year, '84, wishing, perhaps, to outdo its predecessors, gave a very successful ball in Odd Fellows' Hall, and '85 following the example of '84 gave a similar entertainment with like success.

This year for the first time there seems to be an opposition, or at least an indifference, to the custom. Now is '86, with a class twice as large as '85, and consequently more capable of bearing the expense, to do away with this pleasant feature of our college life? A committee has been appointed which is canvassing the class to ascertain the amount of money which can be raised. This committee has worked hard and has succeeded fairly well, though the results are not what should be expected. Let '86 brace up, and let every member have his name on the subscription paper if only for a small sum. Every little helps, and a class pride, if no other motive, should induce every member to do what he can to make the '86 ball an occasion to be remembered.

In looking over our exchanges, we are struck by the contrast between the appearance of the English journals and those published on this side of the Atlantic. The American periodical is printed on good paper, with well-executed illustrations, and comes neatly folded, with the leaves cut and trimmed to size, and sewed together. Not so its "esteemed English contemporary"; the latter is usually received rolled in a tight wad, which no amount of pressing can flatten out, and to open which is vexation of spirit. The leaves have all to be cut, or, if noth-