HE second term is well under way. '83 has past her last quarter pole and is now on the home-stretch. The exertion to be first under the wire does not, however, appear to take a very severe hold on the members of the class. Each modestly prefers to let his classmate win the purse, while he contents himself with a moderate gait, and, perhaps, manages to throw a glance or two about him and see what is going on outside the course. The probability is that moderately good time will be made by each courser, although no astonishing speed will be developed.

If the class of '84 desires to make the class supper an annual affair, we think that now is the most convenient time for our second meeting, as at present we are not so pressed in our studies as we shall be later. Moreover it is a generally recognized fact that money is a little more plenty among the students at the beginning of a term than at the end.

Those present at the last supper will certainly favor the idea of having one this year when they bring to mind the enjoyment had on that occasion. Who does not recall with pleasure the speech made by our last class president, and the one delivered upon the Chinese question; also the feats performed by our "boneless wonder"?

During our course of four years at the Institute, should we not meet together at least once a year for the purpose of enjoying ourselves as a class, and of becoming better acquainted with each other? What we need here is to be together occasionally and have some of those enjoyments usually had by students, instead of making our long course a continual grind.

Especially should those who do not belong to any society in the Institute favor the meeting, if they would know what a good time students are capable of having together. They will not then look back in after years and wish they had had more intercourse with their classmates outside the class-room.

THE department of mechanical engineering is to be congratulated on the recent accession to its instructors. The department has become the largest in the school, and has for some time past been considerably hampered in its work by the lack of a complete corps of instructors. Mr. Stevens, the new instructor, has been engaged in mill and machinery drawing at Lowell since 1870, and for two years past has been draughtsman of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company's repair shops, at Boston. Mr. Stevens brings with him a thorough knowledge of the requirements and methods in practical draughting and general machine work which will prove greatly to the benefit of the students under his charge.