out the design of a complete series, and not until the present issue does the second sketch appear. The third portrait, that of Dr. Jacob Bigelow, will appear in the next issue, with a short account of his life and connection with the Institute.

THERE are but a few weeks of the term remaining, and the work of the present board of editors is nearly finished. We think it is fully time that the new board of directors should be chosen by the classes and the editors for next year appointed. The elections should take place before the examinations begin, and that will require class meetings for this purpose by the middle of next week at the latest. It has been customary to hold a mass meeting to consider the results of the year and make any necessary arrangements for the coming year. This meeting may, however, at this time be considered unnecessary, as the paper appears to be on a firm basis, with best prospects of continued success for the third volume.

WITH '83 five of the present editorial board will go out, and it will become necessary for the new board of directors to appoint at least five new men. Some of these should be appointed from the present Sophomore and Freshmen classes, who are each represented on the present board by but one editor. These classes are large, and it would seem that they ought to contain many men who could fill the vacant positions with credit to themselves and the paper. We judge, however, rather from what might reasonably be expected than from any proof of inherent talent which '85 or '86 has given us during the year. But we cling to the belief that there must be a good deal of modestly hidden ability under the big hats of our young friends, and we sincerely hope that the new board will be more successful in condensing said ability into a readable form than the present board has been.

Mr. Ralph Huntington.

MR. RALPH HUNTINGTON, whose portrait accompanies this sketch, was born in Worthington, Mass., in the year 1784. He began business in Boston about the year 1807 as a clerk in the Northampton Bank, and shortly after opened an exchange office on State Street, soon taking his place among the first of Boston exchangers and bankers.

He was one of the original members of the Water Power Company by whom the Mill Dam was constructed, and he was among the first to foresee the future value for building purposes of the great area of tide-water flats then known as the Back Bay. He took an active part in the "Tripartite Treaty," so called; and the reader may be interested in a short account of this treaty and its results.

About the year 1822, the Mill Dam, now Beacon Street, was constructed by a party of Boston capitalists, with the intention of taking advantage of the rise and fall of the tides for water-power purposes. The great development of water power on the rivers of the State soon rendered this privilege comparatively valueless. The State owned the fee of several hundred acres of the flats over which the Water Power Company had the right of flowing water. A proposition to fill in the flats and make land for building purposes led to a compromise by which each party should become owner of one half of the new lands. The city of Boston, the third party interested in the treaty, held the right of drainage into the Back Bay, and to adjust its claim the city was given the right to all lands required for streets, schools, and public buildings on the newly made area.

The State received some millions of dollars from the sales of its portion of the lands, and this amount was appropriated for educational purposes by vote of the Legislature. Certain portions of the land were, however, reserved by the State, and these portions include the square on which the Institute and National History Buildings now stand, the square on which the new building of the Harvard Medical School