series of experiments on the strength of solid bodies, and the next year on gunpowder and the velocity of explosives—a subject in which he had previously made some investigations. At about this time he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society. Thompson had always clung to his title of major, having a liking for the military, and now, at his own solicitation, received an appointment of lieutenant-colonel in the English army. He went to America, and fought against his countrymen for awhile, but soon returned to England.

The war with America being over, Thompson started upon a tour through Europe, with the half intention of joining the army of some nation then at war. In Germany he made the acquaintance of Prince Maximilian of Bavaria, who was much pleased with him, and introduced him to his uncle, the Elector. Having been invited to enter the Bavarian service, Thompson returned to England to ask permission of the king of that country, which was granted, and in addition he received the honor of knighthood.

It was in the service of Bavaria that Rumford's greatest work was done, and it is in that country that his memory is most honored. The Bavarian army was then in a state of complete disorganization, and Rumford's first work was to reform this. The country was at that time inflected with the exactions of hordes of beggars; Rumford removed them in an incredibly short time. These are only a few of the blessings which he worked for Bavaria. It is needless to say that he was heaped with high honors. He was made a Privy Counsellor and a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, and was appointed to many high places in the government.

Toward the close of the century, Rumford returned to England, in order to carry out some of his improvements in the heating and ventilation of houses. He also, at this time, founded the Royal Institution, which was the first institute of technology in existence.

Rumford was shortly after appointed Ambassador from Bavaria to England, but was refused by the latter government, on the ground that he had been born an English subject. His friend, the Elector of Bavaria, dying soon after, Rumford never returned to that country, but spent the remainder of his life in retirement at Auteuil, in France, where he conducted his great experiments on heat and light. He died in 1814.

Rumford has been harshly judged for leaving his country as he did, but it seems as though there were extenuating circumstances. He did not forget the land of his birth, however, and in his later years evinced a desire to return, although he was prevented from doing so by various causes. Nevertheless, he took occasion to show his interest in the scientific institutions of this country by endowing a professorship at Harvard, and by the donation of a liberal amount to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, to be used in the purchase of medals for the one who, in each two years, should have made the most important discovery in heat or light. These medals are known as the Rumford medals.

A. C. R.

A MEETING of the members of the class of '88 was held Monday, Oct. 19th, to consider the project of forming a society of '88. It was decided to form such a society, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. H. C. Moore, G. C. Dempsey, and G. E. Claffin, was appointed to draw up a Constitution and By-laws. On Thursday, Oct. 29th, a meeting was held for the adoption of the Constitution and election of officers, at which the Constitution and By-laws were submitted by the committee, and adopted as drawn up. The officers elected were as follows:

President, George C. Dempsey; Vice-President, Harry C. Moore; Secretary, George N. G. Holman; Treasurer, Henry J. Horn, Jr.; Entertainment Committee, Lorenzo B Newell, Ellison C. Means, and Howard G. Hodgkins.

The above form the Executive Committee of the Society, which holds its first social meeting Friday, Nov. 13th.

Gentlemen of leisure—tramps.