THE TECH.
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The accident that has just occurred on the Vermont Central, would have been robbed of half its horrors if the cars had not caught fire. And this turns the attention of all thinking men toward the cause of such an outbreak, and the possibility of preventing its recurrence. This is not the first or second time that the added horror of recording the roasting of pinioned men and women, who otherwise might have escaped with a broken leg or arm, has occurred. No later than five or six years ago, on the New York and Hudson River Railroad, a special train, filled with returning legislators from Albany, was overturned, and the whole wreck enwrapped in flame — fire destroying what wreck had spared. The fault lies in the mistaken system of heating by stoves, instead of from the locomotive. If, by some system yet to be devised, pipe or hose attachment of sufficient strength to hold together when the train is on the rail, yet weak enough to part in case of accident, could connect the locomotive with the cars, and all firing be done at that end, heating by transmission either of steam, hot water, or hot air, winter travel would be shorn of one feature, at least, of dread.

The Institute is scientific, and here is a field open for practice, if nothing more. The railway companies would gladly take advantage of any practical invention that seems at all feasible, and reward the inventor with a fortune as well as a name.

One prominent feature at the Institute for which we should be greatly thankful, is the absence of the many petty restrictions and annoying regulations under which the students of many other colleges suffer. The only laws laid down for us to follow, are those which control us within the buildings where we recite and work. No morning chapel or obligatory Sunday observances, no regulations about our conduct outside whatever, except that of course if anything were done to bring discredit upon the Tech., the student might be admonished. At other colleges the students are harassed by the faculty, who interfere with their amusements, prohibit certain athletics, and put restraint upon others,—in fact, treating a class of young men whose age would average above twenty-one, as if they were not yet out of leading-strings.

We owe our freedom in a great respect, no doubt, to the absence of a dormitory system; though even if we had such a system, we have confidence enough in our Faculty to say, that we do not think they would use their strengthened control in a tyrannical manner. As we are situated, it would be impossible to exercise any system of surveillance over us outside of school-hours. Each student lives by, and looks out for, himself alone; and has his own responsibility, especially, as is the case with most of us, if he is away from home. Though exposed directly to