We have recently had it brought up rather forcibly before us in our minds that there is a general impression everywhere that the Institute is only a place of grinds and that there is nothing going on here at all but work, work, the livelong time; that many of the fellows are unable to stand the strain, and either drop out or become broken down in health; that there is no spirit here which greatly encourages athletics; and that there is no social life here at all, our acquaintances with each other, beginning and ending with the class-rooms and laboratories.

That this may have once been the case we will not dispute, but that it is entirely the case now, we are not willing to admit. Still, it is none the less true that in comparison with some other colleges we may perhaps be regarded as a set of grinds. Now, while it may be perhaps a pleasant reflection for some that the Institute has this reputation, we do not think that it is the best sort of a reputation it should have. It is not well that we should have the reputation of sacrificing everything—friends, health, and enjoyment—for the possession of a knowledge which may do us no good when we get it, because we have ruined our constitution in its acquirement.

Actually we do not sacrifice all these things, and we manage to find a good deal of time in enjoyment without detriment to our studies, but this is not the reputation we have. Personally we know of several good men who have been scared away by this reputation of the Institute, and men, too, of considerable ability, but who had no idea of sacrificing everything for knowledge; and we have no doubt that there are many others. We think, therefore, that in view of this fact we should endeavor, as much as possible, to establish a new and different reputation for the Institute; not one in which we are represented as idlers, who come to college to pass away four years, or where the excesses of the students are notorious and expensive, but a good, strong, healthy reputation. Let our athletic teams be well known; let every one take an interest in athletics, and go into the sports as much as possible, not for the hope of winning, but for the desire of encouraging athletics; let every one be more interested in his class and Institute affairs, and let the social side of his character be seen more, and that of the hard student less. We venture to say that if this advice is taken, and the reputation of the Institute as a place for grinds is changed by the higher standing of our athletic teams, and the greater amount of sociality among the students, that it will be found that the Institute will have lost nothing, but gained a great deal. For it will still have its reputation as being one of the finest scientific schools in the United States,