Communications.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

To the Editor of the Tech:

Sir,—The discussion now going on at the Institute in regard to a change in the colors, has made it seem as if a brief account of the origin of the present colors might be of interest to those now students.

In the fall of 1875, at one of the first class-meetings of '79, the matter was brought up, and after some research it was found that the Institute did have some colors, which were, if I remember rightly, lavender, or lavender and white. Some other college laid claim to these, and so a committee was appointed to go into the matter, and at the same time a request was sent to the other classes asking them to also appoint committees to join in the choice. This joint committee, after careful and thorough investigation, chose the present colors, which were called in their report cardinal red and silver gray, and their choice was ratified by all the classes then in the Institute. This was some time in the winter of 1875.

In June, 1876, the Institute as a battalion, numbering, with some outsiders, over five hundred, went on to Philadelphia to the Centennial, and nearly all wore the new colors in some form, many as hat-bands on straw hats, made of gray ribbon with a band of cardinal through the centre.

When '79 graduated in May of that year, it was the first class to have any public graduation exercises, and after each one had read an abstract of his thesis, he received his diploma, tied at one end with a silver-gray ribbon, and at the other with one of cardinal, this being, I think, the first recognition of the colors by the authorities of the Institute. Lieutenant, now Captain Zalinski, our military instructor, had, in 1876, recognized the colors by having the guidons for the battalion made of them.

One of your correspondents urges a choice of some one color. This, I think, would be found impossible, as the well-marked single colors are all taken now; and when he says that all the prominent colleges have single colors, does he mean that Columbia with her blue and white, Princeton with her black and orange, and Cornell with her red and white, are not prominent colleges?

I think an investigation would prove that it is difficult to find any colors not already claimed by some college more or less prominent, and should like to ask for more definite information than I have yet seen in regard to the strength of the claim made by the Worcester Tech. to cardinal-red and silver-gray.

To the Editor of the Tech:

I received a bundle of the Techs to-night, and have been reading them with much interest and with memories of "auld lang syne." In the natural course of events men and things change, and a glance through the pages of the Tech shows the changes that have occurred at the Massachusetts Institute in the short time of three years. No more does one read of Hadley, nor even of his ghost; no more the old war-cry, "Papyrographs must go."

In No. 5, of the current volume, I read, however, of a proposed change which should not be made. I refer to a communication which opened for debate in your columns the subject whether the present colors of the Massachusetts Institute should not better be abandoned, and new ones adopted. The argument for the change was a weak one; only that the Worcester Institute had the same colors, the Worcester Institute being an institution with the men of which those of the Massachusetts Institute only occasionally come in contact. Your correspondent might have added, too, that the University of Virginia, also, has the same colors.

A spirit that seeks continual change is unfortunate, and such a change as the one now proposed is particularly so. The Massachusetts Institute is not a college of such antiquity that it can afford to calmly throw aside the few time-honored things that it has. I do not think, either, that the Classes of '88 and '89 would care to abandon the colors under which their elevens have won such glorious victories on the football field; and not one alumus who has any kindly feeling for his Alma Mater, as all must have, would be willing to see the colors that he has borne in undergraduate days thus cast aside. The cardinal and gray should continue to be the chosen colors of the Massachusetts Institute. If a difference with Worcester is required, it would be but a simple matter to arrange the Massachusetts colors, in banners or when worn, in chequers or transverse stripes, Worcester using longitudinal ones.

And, Mr. Editor, if you will kindly allow me the space, one word more regarding colors. With the prominence that the Institute is now gaining in athletic matters, a strong college spirit must be main-