937, 517, or 55.2 per cent, are from Massachusetts; 108 are from the other New England States; and 312 from outside New England, of whom 36 are from foreign countries. Thirty-three towns send four or more students to the Institute.

The average age of 246 students of the first-year class is 225.66 months,—a marked increase over any previous entering class.

The total number of special students is 279, or 30 per cent of the whole. There are 23 women students in the Institute. Forty-two graduates of other institutions are pursuing courses of study here. Of these, 10 are graduates of Harvard University; four each of Brown and Yale Universities; two each of Boston University, Amherst College, and the Michigan Mining School; while one comes from each of the following institutions: Oregon State University, Oberlin College, Hobart, Swarthmore, Hamilton, Kenyon, Trinity, Robert College, Georgetown College, Smith College, Iowa State College, Alleghany College, Haverford College, Spring Hill College, Rose Polytechnic Institute, Cornell University, Denison University, and the University of the City of New York. Twenty-five out of a total of 48 graduate students take special courses.

The courses in Electrical, Mechanical, and Civil Engineering are the largest numerically, having 105, 95, and 79 regular students respectively. Since 1868, 757 students have graduated in the regular courses.

There are more than 18,000 volumes in the departmental libraries of the Institute, exclusive of pamphlets,—the increase for the year having been 1,867. The number of different periodicals received is 297.

The number of instructors of all grades is 95, exclusive of 14 lecturers for the current year.

The progress of the work of the Institute in the various courses is outlined, and the instruction in English and mathematics particularly discussed.

My Friend, John Smith.

John Smith is not my bosom companion; he is not even an intimate of mine; but since we are old acquaintances, with kind feeling always between us, I think I may call the subject of this sketch “My Friend.” John is a negro, a big, heavy fellow, born and bred down South, and with all the best traits of a Southern negro. Although he has a pretty good share of personal vanity, he combines with it the best of good tempers; he is slightly lazy, and very talkative, and is possessed of a rapid utterance that would do credit to an auctioneer.

His talkativeness shows itself in a readiness to discuss any and all topics. It is only necessary for him to have an idea, however hazy, of what the conversation is about, for him to plunge into the middle of it. He prefers, however, to talk about himself; not necessarily of himself personally, but of his affairs, and especially of his family. By occasional conversations with him I have gradually learned his whole family history, even for several generations back. He boasts of an almost pure African descent, though with a slight streak of the Indian. But John’s grandparents do not interest him so much as the present generation, himself included; and from his talk I have gathered the following brief outline of his history.

He was born down South before the war, though he never was a slave. There he married, and two children were born to him. Coming to the North, he established himself in a little town in one corner of Connecticut, where he has remained ever since, with his wife and family. Things go fairly well with him, and he can support his family in moderate comfort. His children have increased to seven,—seven little, mild-mannered, clumsy Smiths, with an array of names to daunt a census officer. His wife is a good, industrious woman, who helps the family finances by taking in washing. John himself is sexton, during the whole of the year, of the little