privileged to claim the appellation "Technology" as purely our own. The Tech, therefore, urges our students, alumni, and professors to adopt this title, and to make it symbolical of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Some half dozen duplicate petitions have been circulating for several days in the various classes, urging the Faculty to suspend the exercises of the college upon the Saturday immediately preceding Christmas Day, and the Tuesday following. Not a man refused to sign it; and this fact, together with the rapidity with which the petitions circulated, show the sentiments of the students in the matter. Thanksgiving is a typical New England festival, but the Christmas season is far dearer to the average American. The recess requested would enable most of the students to join the family circle at a time when every absence is deeply regretted; so it seems that the Christmas vacation should be at least as extended as that in November. Many men will cut anyway, and the work of the two days in question would indeed be "most unsatisfactory even if required." The Tech adds its plea to that of the students for the additional two days of freedom, feeling that all will work the harder in consequence.

Communications.

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

To the Editors of The Tech:

During the Thanksgiving recess a sign was put up on the Cage signifying the hours at which the coat room connected therewith is open. This had to be done, because a good many of the newer men thought that Miss Bassett could attend at the coat room all day, without any luncheon. Nevertheless, it is frequently necessary to have access to the coat room while Miss Bassett is at lunch; and it would seem well to have an assistant wait at the coat room during the time in which it at present remains closed.

E. A. B.

To the Editors of The Tech:

I cannot imagine that as far as his own feelings go a member of the Faculty is likely to care whether the students touch their hats to him or not. The faint satisfaction which may be supposed to come from that act of respect would soon give place to a little sense of weariness at an act which was purely ceremonial. There is, however, another side to the matter, and personally I do not see the students pass members of the Faculty with untouched hats without a feeling of regret for the student himself.

The custom of saluting a member of the Faculty is based on the recognition of the fact that he represents the college, and that officially he stands for that thing which men through the ages have united in regarding as worthy of honor—learning. It is in recognition of the fact that every student gets from the college more than he can repay, more than money could repay; and that it is becoming that he should be ready in manly frankness and loyalty to himself and to the truth to acknowledge this by saluting the men who represent the institution. It is in recognition, also, of the fact that any teacher who is worthy of the name is more than a mere bargain maker, who gives what he is paid for; that he is one who gives freely, in so far as is in his power, for the love of diffusing knowledge, and for the pleasure of helping those under him. It is not as an individual that a member of the Faculty should be saluted, but as the representative of an idea; and to me it seems a pity that a student should not feel himself impelled to salute the men who are the representatives of this idea and of the beneficence which makes it possible for him to equip himself for his life work. It is purely on the principle of noblesse oblige that I would have a student touch his cap,—on the ground that he respects himself too much not to give honor where honor is due. The question of the individual professor has, of course, nothing to do with this. It is to what he represents that the salute is rendered.

In a technical school, where the practical side of life is always emphasized, there is constant danger that the finer and more subtle side of life will not be proportionately developed so that a harmonious man shall be the result. It is on this account that it seems to me to be worth while to insist upon this point. It chances that I have never heard a member of the Faculty to which I belong express any opinion whatever on the subject of touching the hat, so that I claim to represent no views save my own. I trust that "C." will pardon me if I say that it does not seem to me that he