not certainty, but uncertainty. The military officer on sea or shore who fails to realize the situation, and who thinks he can act only when he is perfectly sure of what is going to happen, is doomed to failure. The chances of war are so great, that what determines our condition is not certainty, but risk. It is not so with what you give us.”

In introducing the next speaker, President Mendenhall, Mr. Munroe acknowledged gratefully the assistance furnished to Technology by the Worcester school in securing our grant from the State. President Mendenhall made a scholarly speech, in which he quoted the learned Confucius to the effect that it is unwise to stoop to tie your shoe in the melon patch of your enemy; and stated that he felt quite at ease in the Technology melon patch, and found great profit in observing the seed planted there, and the manner of sowing it. He closed by reading Huxley’s definition of a liberally educated man.

Mr. Munroe stated that President Walker had been very unfortunate in returning from the universities of Europe with records of nothing but L and L and D. Nevertheless, the general was greeted with a rousing cheer, all standing, when he rose for a short address. He thanked the alumni for their loyalty to him, and paid an earnest tribute to the late Henry L. Pierce, member of the corporation, whose generous bequest has recently been made public.

Professor Hollis extended the cordial sympathy of Harvard University, and said that any past misunderstanding between the institutions was certain to disappear. Mr. Richards closed the speaking by an account of the New York Alumni Association, and urged the formation of such societies all over the country.

Before the dinner a business meeting of the Association was held, at which the following officers were elected: President, John R. Freeman, ’76; Vice President, Edwin C. Miller, ’79; Secretary, Augustus H. Gill, ’84; Member of Executive Committee, Charles W. Taintor, ’93; Trustee of the Alumni Fund, James P. Munroe, ’82.

COMMUNICATIONS.

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

To the Editors of The Tech:

I beg leave, through the columns of The Tech, to call attention to a most offensive occurrence of the last Athletic Meet, at which Tech. men, to say the least, have expressed great dissatisfaction. I refer to the appointment of officials, or of a certain official of the Meet, who was neither a Tech. man nor an alumnus.

The member of the M.I.T. Athletic Association who had in charge the appointment of officials for this Meet, is certainly to be severely censured for allowing personalities to rule, where true loyal college spirit would have dictated otherwise.

The fact that a man has been at the Institute for a part of one year, or even for a year, does not warrant the choice of such a man to serve as an official at an Athletic Meet.

Although it is true that the position may be one of but slight honor, still, the fact is obvious that in the case in question the service of a Tech. man, or of an alumnus, was ignored, while on the list of officials one might read ——, ’98; the suffix, ’98, of which was distinctly out of place.

X., ’98.

To the Editors of The Tech:—

A FABLE.

Once upon a time, in a large and wealthy city, there existed a gentleman’s social club. When this club was first organized a goodly number of worthy citizens qualified for membership. They were all of strong character, and gifted in special lines. Those who were instrumental in calling the first meeting were for the most part elected to offices of honor, and in these capacities they were to serve for one year. Not long after the time when the very inviting rooms were thrown open for use of the members, the particular inclinations of the individuals comprising the membership were manifested, and those having like inclinations naturally grouped together for mutual enjoyment of the privileges offered, some being seated at card tables; others were to be found in the club gymnasium; some spent their evenings at billiards, while others gathered for dancing, music, and the like. So things went. Occasional general meetings were held, at which officers were elected and business transacted. It was remarked occasionally that the officers and standing committees were elected each year from practically the same circle of men. None were specially anxious on this