CLASS distinction of intellect, an American aristocracy of college-bred men, seems to be a realization of the present, and a promise for the future. The added proof each day that in those multiplying branches of human affairs where thoughts are the necessities, and hands the accessories, a trained intellect, or at least a technical knowledge of facts, is indispensable, and, furthermore, the increasing numbers of those who are students because they appreciate the wealth of knowledge to which they are heirs, are giving use to this intellectual aristocracy. Americans, democrats as we are, we have never consoled ourselves for our lack of ancient history, and, naturally, students as we are, we are endeavoring by study to adapt to ourselves the intellectual traditions of others. The modern languages, but more particularly in our great elective universities the classics, furnish the most satisfying food for such an appetite. Even the most utilitarian specializer in the sciences cannot but realize that in his knowledge of science alone, he is the possessor of that which is inspiring in something more than its promise of wages and a livelihood. Curiously enough, along with our new striving after knowledge, and in our elation that in the possession of an education,—for we have something above the sordid requirements for earning good wages,—there seems to be a reaction in Europe, and the conservative students of the Collège de France, where no diplomas were ever given, and where the practicability of a subject was an all-sufficient reason for its exclusion from the curriculum, are giving way to the brisk young men with their pat knowledge of rule of thumb methods, and their consuming desire for government certificates, which will obtain for them perhaps a government position. We are not, however, scoffing at the abilities of workmen, or the self-made man, nor are we proclaiming any particularly exclusiveness of a class, for such an aristocracy must be the most democratic of American institutions, since membership in its ranks is limited only by the bounds of human knowledge.

The holidays are over, but, needless to say, they have not been wasted. Every man in the Institute, whether he went home for the interval or remained in the city, is ready to bear witness to the fact that he is better for them,—better for the rest and pleasure they have given him. The students appreciate to the full the value of these days in recuperating health and spirits. Furthermore the Institute, as well as the student, is a gainer, and not a loser by the vacation, for student and professor alike, we dare say, will