do better and more profitable work in the weeks remaining before Christmas, because of the momentary change of scene and effort. If our surmise be correct, as we believe it is, let every man show his appreciation of this temporary relaxation by doing all the work there is in him, steadily and faithfully from now on until the end of the term, and, we may add, the position he then takes in the examinations will amply repay him for the endeavor expended at present.

AMONG the numerous tricks which are fortunately almost unknown at the Institute, that of petty thievery is the most despicable. The last example of this occurred during the Thanksgiving vacation, when some one broke into the frame in Rogers corridor and took the new Glee Club poster. The notice in the general library is on account of the same propensity, while the constant and aggravating disappearance of everything, from thumb tacks to drawing boards from the first year drawing rooms, are previous cases. Suspicion seldom attaches directly to any one, yet these are doubtless the thoughtless acts of men who do not think for the moment what they are really doing.

Sonnet.
When was there one who left his native land
Embarking on the vast and restless deep,
Who did not long a misty vigil keep
Unto his country's disappearing strand?
Unheedful of his new surroundings grand—
The billows' heave, that slowly shoreward creep,
The glistening waves on which the sunbeams sleep—
Old Ocean's wonders spread on every hand.
Did not his eyes, spray-blinded, moist, and dim,
For hours long their weary vision strain
To that blue smoke on the horizon's rim
That far dear home beyond the rolling main?
Those vales perchance he ne'er shall tread again,
Their pleasures and their joys,—no more for him.

E. H. P.

COMMUNICATIONS.

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

TO THE EDITORS OF THE TECH:

Your editorial in this week's paper calling attention to the desirability of having one strong Engineering Society is certainly well timed, and deserves serious consideration. The plan has often been discussed before, and was heartily favored by the late President Walker. There are certain difficulties in the way, however, which cannot easily be surmounted, and an alternative plan may be offered.

Our societies should invite addresses from leading engineers, and should also occasionally afford the members an opportunity to talk, so that they can have valuable practice in public speaking. To secure prominent speakers a strong organization is needed, so that a good attendance can be assured. If the society were big enough, with a small assessment, to have a large net income, it would not be limited to the environs of Boston for lecturers. By paying hotel and traveling expenses speakers could be brought from a considerable distance. On the other hand, a small society is better for the student who is not fluent, and who cannot be expected to have a topic sufficiently important to interest a large gathering. The lectures from outsiders would not usually be very theoretical, or of a nature to interest only a few.

This season there will be a meeting almost every week of one society or another. Most of the men will not feel that they can attend all even if invited to, and many can attend only a few. This means a small average attendance and a seeming lack of interest. How would it do in arranging the work for another year, for the societies to co-operate and lay out a joint schedule embracing four or five meetings, and spare no effort to make these meetings successful in regard to both the eminence of the speakers and the size of the attendance? During the interims each society could arrange meetings of its own, and afford the members a chance to participate.

Trusting that you will pardon this claim on your space, and hoping that there may be further discussion of the topic, I am, yours truly,

G. A. Hutchinson, '98.