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To the Editors of the Tech:

In Number 9 of The Tech Mr. G. A. Hutchinson, '98, called attention to the desirability of consolidating the various engineering societies into one strong organization, which would be able to command a long list of distinguished speakers. In advancing the above proposition the real end in view has been overlooked. A successful engineer must be able to do more or less speaking in presenting plans, specifications, etc., and must express his ideas in a clear, concise form. It was with this object in view that the societies were formed, and it was thought that while the talks which the students would give might not be of the best, yet all would attend, for, in turn, each would have the same opportunity of delivering an address. Besides the speaking there is the discussion which takes place at each meeting, and which would be discouraged if larger attendance were realized or outside speakers obtained.

The evenings should be devoted to short discussions by several men, and the practice which seems to have grown up in the last year of having outsiders should be abandoned. If the men are desirous of hearing papers on engineering subjects by prominent men, then they should attend such meetings as the Society of Arts, the Boston Society of Civil Engineers, or an occasional Lowell Course. It is a fact that in Boston there are plenty of opportunities for hearing lectures which are open to those who wish to go. We all hear more lectures here in the Institute than we can do justice to, and each professor makes his talks as practical and as far-reaching as he thinks we can appreciate, so it seems that the proper sphere for the societies lies in the training of its own members.

Very truly yours,

W. R. Strickland, '98.

Two Cancelled Checks.

I had often noticed hanging above the mantel in front of the fireplace in Jo. Paige's library two blue-green bank checks carefully framed in oak, but I had never quite got up courage to ask him to tell me their history until last Christmas Eve. I had noticed that the checks were for considerable sums, and the date on them was the same as that of Jo.'s wedding. What made me curious about their history, however, was the fact that they were signed by D. M. Salisbury and E. McC. Sherman. Now, I could not understand how it could come about that Teddy Sherman and Dan Salisbury, the ardent though unsuccessful suitors for the hand of Belle Wilder—now Mrs. Jo. Paige—should have made Jo., the successful suitor, wedding presents in the shape of two checks of such size. I often turned over in my mind the details of Jo.'s courtship and marriage for some solution of this problem, but had never been able to arrive at one. I remembered that for two years before the Christmas when Jo.'s engagement to Belle Wilder had been announced, it had been supposed by every one that either Teddy Sherman or Dan Salisbury would be the possessor of Belle's hand, and there was a tremendous sensation when Jo. Paige carried off the prize. Dan and Teddy were neck-and-neck in the race, but Jo. was not thought to have the slightest chance. Several bets on the result were made among the fellows, and I myself lost a little, but with very good grace when I found out who was the successful man. In spite of the fact that I knew Paige better than any one else, I never dared to ask him the history of his engagement. This Christmas Eve, as I sat before the fire with Mr. and Mrs. Paige, I was overcome with curiosity. I ought to say right here that I was once somewhat of an admirer of Belle, as I still call her, but that I am yet a bachelor.

"Jo., what are those checks up there in the frame? What do they mean, anyway? You've seen me staring at them, and I mean to know their story."

"Those things? O, they're keepsakes. Shall I tell Arthur about them, Belle? You know I've kept my word, and never told a soul."

"Ye-es, I guess you may," said Belle. "It's too old to be very embarrassing."