The Lounger would explain. The photogravure presented with this week's issue of The Tech is a true copy, slightly magnified, of the Institute Gymnasium. This must be understood unequivocally: those who have stated it to be a representation of a Montana barn in Springtime are mistaken, and such as have believed the illustration to represent the operating-room of the Spanish Inquisition are equally in error; they have judged from appearances only, and their opinions are not to be regarded as authentic. The subject is neither more nor less than the Tech Gym.; and for the benefit of those of his readers who have but lately become intimately acquainted with the Institute layout, The Lounger will present briefly a few unembellished facts concerning the history of this building.

The gymnasium was first located in Rogers corridor. This was in 1814; in the latter part of the year. Upon the establishment of the Lowell Institute Lectures, in 1816, the gymnasium was moved down into the Mining Laboratory. Disagreements among the Faculty, however, caused its speedy removal to the Secretary's Office. Here it stayed for five years. The habit, then acquired, among students, of frequenting the Secretary's Office on all days of the week has survived even until the present time. In 1821 a building was put up in Copley Square, for this purpose: it was used as the gymnasium for sixteen years, and was then ornamented by a tower and a steeple, and now stands as Trinity Church. In 1837 the Bursar—having just discovered that the War of 1812 was definitely terminated—was prevailed upon to put up the present edifice, which was situated in the triangle of Copley Square. At the opening of the Civil War the historic building whose likeness supplements this copy of The Tech, was bodily moved to its present location, and was used for the quartering of troops and the confinement of prisoners-of-war.

At that time the building had a flat roof, and this was much used for open-air lunches. The virtues of Munich beer being then undiscovered, the sovereign of the lunch-room was driven to erecting a vaudeville stage at one end of the roof-garden, to retain her extensive patronage. And here it was, some twenty years later,—indeed, on that memorable Black Friday,—that the Faculty gave their first, and only, Theatrical Representation. This fell act was nipped in the bud. There was one person in the audience who clearly foresaw the ruin that would be the inevitable result. Rising in the middle of the second scene, he said: "Let it be remembered that the Institute is a place for boys to work, not for men to play! Ring down the curtain." The next morning the roof was removed and placed on the Walker Building, where it now is, and the Walker Building roof—which was built more on the Queen Anne plan—was placed upon the Gymnasium. It may be seen to-day. This occurred just after the resumption of specie payments, in 1879.

No history of the Gymnasium would be complete, however, without some sort of summary of the most important events that have taken place there. It is well known that the first graduation exercises of Technology occurred in that building, when degrees were conferred upon Thompson and the Bursar; but only few are aware that in 1845 the place was used as the editorial rooms of The Tech. Upon the moving of the building from Copley Square, however, the Editorial Board granted the petition of the President and Secretary of the Institute, and moved into its present quarters in Rogers.

During the sixties, the Gymnasium was used as the Bursar's headquarters. Being well under the high banking of Exeter Street, and thus well sheltered from stray projectiles from hostile gunboats in the harbor, this spot was admirably adapted to be the office of the nervous functionary of tuitions. It is even rumored that it was by intuition that Albert selected it. The private den of the Bursar was in the shower-bath room, and legend preserves the fact that on his most hurried days this official used to sit with ice-cold water from a circular sprinkler flowing over him,—the effect of this being to numb him and render him more deliberate and dignified of movement. The device was efficacious.

Upon the erection of the new gymnasium, due in 1907, if The Tech's expected donation to the fund proves collectable, the present building will be turned over to the uses of classroom work. The Lounger understands, on unimpeachable authority, that it will probably be devoted to the Freshmen as their drill-hall, though one end will be reserved for the Life Class of Course IV. Rumors that it has been bought by the Technology Club are false, as is the current gossip that it is to be moved up between the Rogers and Walker Buildings. It is true that the authorities are contemplating its exhibition at the St. Louis Exposition, but there is no reliability in the often repeated idea that it is to be relocated as a wing of the Museum of Fine Arts. The Lounger states this upon authority. President Pritchett will frankly admit that there is nothing in it.