

Japan has notified China that the second Russian reply to her proposals was unfavorable and that unless Russia recedes, Japan will be compelled to resort to arms. In such a case China is expected to maintain the strictest neutrality.

The Bulgarian government has sent a note to the Porte complaining of the nonfulfilment of the promises concerning reforms in Macedonia.

It is announced that Great Britain has agreed to the Anglo-Italian arbitration treaty, which will be signed in Rome.

GENERAL.

John L. Bates and Curtis Guild, Jr., have been inaugurated a second time as Governor and Lieutenant-Governor respectively of Massachusetts. Louis A. Frothingham was elected Speaker of the House, and G. R. Jones was re-elected President of the Senate.

The United States Steel Corporation has started a number of its idle blast furnaces, adding to its production of pig-iron about three thousand tons daily.

According to the walking delegate of the Compressed Air Workers' Union, twenty-six men have died of the caisson disease in the caissons for the Brooklyn and Manhattan piers of the new Manhattan bridge across the East River.

1906 Technique Electoral Board.

The Sophomore *Technique* Electoral Board elections are to begin immediately. At a meeting of the Class Executive Committee it was decided that the election shall occur in the same manner as regular elections of class officers. The nominations for the board will each be signed by ten names or will not be valid. Nominations of at least fifty men, which is twice the number necessary for the board, will be required before the nominations are closed. Nominations will be received by the Executive Committee at any time up to Feb. 13, which is the official date for closing. It is desired to hold the election as early as possible in order to avoid the errors of previous years, when the choosing of the *Technique* Board by the Electoral Committee has occurred far too late in the year. The difficulty in selecting the best men for the *Technique* Board usually consumes much time, and it has seemed best to begin as early as possible.



The Elizabethan performance of *Twelfth Night*, running this week at Chickering Hall, proves as much fun as it was certain to be merely interesting. To a modern audience, even more than to a modern reader, Shakspeare's punning jokes, line after line, are, frankly, a bore; for of course a pun is the shortest lived sort of merriment. Already we have to study—even so, in cases failing to understand—Shakspeare's jokes; and what could be drearier than a joke studied and explained! The Elizabethan jester, too, a figure so unfamiliar in modern society, seems on the modern stage rather silly and foolish, than really funny. All this we may honestly admit without overlooking the real fun of Shakspearean comedy in the humorous characters and the droll situations. So *Twelfth Night*—freer than *Much Ado* from mere punning fun, and providing in the tipsy scenes between Sir Andrew and Sir Toby, in the coward's duel, and in the trick on the solemn and proper Malvolio, "cross-gartered and in yellow stockings," more real frolic than anything in *As You Like It*—is to-day the most comic of Shakspeare's comedies. The lovelier parts, supremely the character of Viola, are Shakspeare's happiest; and the play has many songs that serve—so much more naturally and appropriately than the arbitrary modern "red lights and slow music"—to adjust the listener's mood to the poetry of the romantic scenes. Besides, as we might expect in a play about contemporary with *Hamlet*, there is a good deal of real seriousness in *Twelfth Night*, though it be always an undertone to the Illyrian laughter of love masquerade, and drunken larks, and cakes and ale.

The performance in the Elizabethan manner, that is, on a platform stage with only a curtained recess behind and with no change of scenes, makes especially prominent—as they must have been in Shakspeare's day—the words of the play and the acting. The absence of scenery proves in this play not in the least disconcerting; for it is quite immaterial whether the interviews occur in Olivia's house or the Duke's palace or simply on the street. Maria bids