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HUNTINGTON HALL FRIEZE.

A Movement has Been Started to Have the Frieze Replaced in Huntington Hall.

In 1870, soon after the Institute had moved into the Rogers Building, a plan was proposed for decorating Huntington Hall, which met the approval of the Corporation, although the Institute did not have much money to spend. The plan was to have an artist make suitable drawings for a monochromatic figure frieze and paint them on the different panels of the Hall. Professor Ware, then of the Institute, engaged Mr. Paul Nefflen, who had done some very admirable decorative work in Boston, to prepare the sketches. Soon after, the figures that afterward became the seal of the Institute were painted in the front centre panel, and two scenes representing Chemistry and Mining were painted on the right, and two more representing Engineering and Architecture were painted on the left of the centre.

The figures of the Seal of the Institute were so remarkably executed that one would say that they were at least life size, while in reality they were but three feet high. Chemistry was represented by a laboratory scene with the students gazing at test tubes with portentous retorts in the background. Mining depicted a typical scene in a coal mine. Engineering was represented by a long steel tubular bridge. Architecture showed a half-completed stone stairway, with the rough, untrimmed edges of the foundation still exposed to view. The color scheme was yellow on a light-brown background. This was the first attempt in this country at fine mural decoration, and although there were faults in the drawings, there was a certain dignity and simplicity about them that attracted one.

To fill the remaining panels on the side and rear walls, it was suggested that circular letters be sent to the various manufacturers around Boston asking them if they would care to have their branch of industry portrayed on the wall for the modest consideration of \$100. Favorable replies were generally re-



"IRON CASTING," FROM HUNTINGTON HALL FRIEZE.

ceived, and the artist, Mr. Nefflen, visited various shops and factories, making his drawings from machines and methods then in ordinary use but now obsolete.

Among these drawings were those representing Carpentry, Brick Making, Navigation, Rope Weaving, Surveying, Ship Building, Iron Casting, Spinning, Paper Making, and Stone Cutting. Carpentry depicted a man sighting the edge of a board to see if it were straight. Brick Making was represented by an old-fashioned brick press and two men shoveling clay into it, while another took away the moulds. In Navigation as the *Transcript* puts it, "one group of god-like youths led by a bearded professor of preternatural dignity were peering through a telescope and calculating upon a globe." Still other groups were making paper, weaving ropes, building ships, and so forth. To quote again from the *Transcript*: "All the simply outlined figures had a touch of the somewhat exalted grace or distinction that marks Tennyson's *Punch* cartoons in such noble contrast to the superficial facility of better drawn, but vulgar caricature work. To those who have sat many hours at the Lowell Institute lectures, these decorations though somewhat dry and stiff, had a certain dignity, fitness and character that was quite unique and unparalleled by any mural decorations elsewhere in Boston. They were original and old works, old comparatively, at any rate, for they dated back to the be-

ginnings of the Institute, and were associated in the minds of all with President Rogers."

In the summer of 1898, when alterations were made in Huntington Hall necessitating the removal of part of the ceiling, and the destruction of several panels, it was found that the walls had become discolored in many places, and it was thought best to introduce an entirely new color scheme. As it was necessary to have the Hall in readiness in August, it was decided to paint over the frieze with a tint corresponding with that on the main wall. However expedient this may have been at the moment, it certainly met the disapproval of the people of Boston, especially the artists and architects.

Mr. W. G. Preston, the architect of the Rogers Building, and Dr. Tyler, after considerable correspondence, found that the original sketches for the cartoons were in the possession of Mr. Nefflen's widow, who lived in Brooklyn, N. Y., and that she would be willing to sell them. A subscription has been raised for obtaining these original drawings, and after they have been bought there will probably be a movement to replace one of the panels, the one containing the figures afterwards used as the seal of the Institute, over the centre of the platform. Should this meet with the general approval of those most interested, it is possible that the whole series of panels, painted on

(Continued on page 2.)

MILITARY SCIENCE.

Dean Burton Speaks on Military Science at the Institute.

On Friday afternoon, January 6, in Huntington Hall, at 4 P. M., Dean Burton explained briefly the status of the Department of Military Science at the Institute. The Institute, he said, was founded at a time when the people of the United States were going through the terrible experience of Civil War. The Morrill Act, passed by Congress in 1862, provided for government aid to institutions giving instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts, on condition that Military Science should be taught. In 1863, the State Legislature gave one-third of this grant to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Thus both national and State governments recognized the importance of technical education in this country; and at the same time the importance of the training of citizen-soldiers. In 1890 this recognition was confirmed by an additional grant.

The work in Military Science at the Institute is under the charge of the War Department. It details the officer of instruction, pays his salary, and provides the arms and equipments; the State permits the use of one of its armories. Thus the Institute is under peculiar obligation to make its course in military instruction not only satisfactory to these authorities, but worthy of the spirit of patriotism in which it was established.

Appreciation of the value of military work on the part of the students was shown just before the opening of the Spanish-American War, when a body of undergraduates offered their services for military duty. In this war the Institute was represented by ninety-four men from twenty-four of the classes. Several graduates of the Institute have rendered distinguished service in the United States Army.

Military drill, therefore, has a well-recognized place at Tech. The Corporation and the Faculty wish to fill their obligation honestly; they call upon the students, and particularly those now taking the course in Military Science, to help them.