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COMMUNICATION.

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

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:

It has recently been stated that the alumni so far as there has been a chance to ascertain, have shown a desire for the introduction of Caps and Gowns. It would be extremely interesting to know if inquiry has extended beyond the first dozen.

If Caps and Gowns are adopted by the Seniors, those same Caps and Gowns will be worn but once and then laid aside. Were they to be worn throughout the Senior year, as is customary in many colleges, at gatherings and convocations, there would be one argument for their introduction.

However, it seems hardly just to set a standard to which everyone must conform regardless of the additional expenditure, slight as it may be. To do so would be a breach of that Technology spirit which calls upon all to regard the interests of their fellow students.

A short while ago, at a formal dinner attended by many influential men, John Mitchell, the great labor leader, was present. True to his democratic beliefs he appeared in an ordinary business suit. For that no one will condemn him as narrow minded. Shall we say that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is narrow minded because it refuses to say that a man must dress at graduation in some certain manner; because it refuses to introduce Caps and Gowns? Shall we so far forget ourselves as to do this and thus knock out one prop from under the democratic spirit of Technology?

It is well to remember in this connection that all truly great work has been done and completed in the most unostentatious manner. Jack Williams when he completed that tunnel through Bald Knob Mountain did not find it necessary to appear in some formal dress before his chief when he reported its completion and received his chief's commendation for the manner in which he had carried out the instructions given to him. Shall we when we report to our President and receive his approval in the form of a degree, do it in any other than the simplest manner? Shall we violate the spirit in which a true "Tech" man attacks his work and finishes it?

In the heart of every "Tech" man there is an ambition to rise, to gain the respect of men, to occupy position, to have the power to direct others in their work. Such an aim is right. There will come a time when by means of this ambition together with hard work and

courage every "Tech" man will have reached his goal. Then comes the test. Will he strive to forget his grimy face, his calloused hands, his soiled, dirty overalls? Will he turn away from the plain, simple ways of his fight to the aristocratic fashions of those who surround him? Will he look down with contempt on the workman who occupies the seat beside him and wish to have obtained the same ends by a less despicable route? Will he sneer at the old-fashioned graduation of yesterday?

There is a great movement now in this country to establish artificial class distinctions, artificial rules and regulations. All respect for the sturdy, democratic ways of our fathers is gone. We apologize for the bluntness, the coarseness(?) of Andrew Jackson. No longer do we admire the action of Jefferson in riding alone, unattended, up to the Capitol building, tying the bridle reins of his horse to a fence, entering, taking his oath. All that is past. We must array ourselves in Cap and Gown now. The way of the old graduate has become obsolete.

Will the Faculty permit this? Will they tell us that the introduction of Caps and Gowns is not an indication of the tendency towards caste distinctions? Are they going to deny their innermost soul which is saying all the time that the contrary is true?

We, therefore, make this appeal to the Faculty.

Gentlemen: With you lies the decision as to whether or not a few men are to be permitted to override the spirit of reciprocal care among "Tech" men; with you rests the burden of saying whether or not the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shall lower its high purpose to the despicable plane of being willing to make a display, to become unrepugnant and undemocratic; with you is the decision as to whether or not the true Technology is to continue its existence. Gentlemen, we await your verdict, hopefully.

TREMONT THEATRE.

Mr. Robert Mantell, long absent from Boston, will appear here, in the Tremont Theatre, on Monday night, February 25, when he will begin a three weeks engagement in the plays of Shakespeare. Mr. Mantell is now the only English-speaking player of the first class engaged in acting the great tragic roles of Shakespeare; and, from all accounts, he has been immensely successful in this field of work in all of the large cities of the United States and Canada, save Boston, where he has not yet been seen in his new repertoire.

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