

# THE DIAMOND.

VOL. I.

JANUARY, 1878.

No. 1.

## THE HALLS OF PSI UPSILON.

BY THE HON. FRANCIS MILES FINCH (B 1849).

AIR:—"Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep."

Within thy halls, Psi Upsilon,  
Our hearts with mirth and pleasure glow,  
And borne by Friendship's current on,  
Nothing but Friendship's joys we know.  
Around thy sons, a chosen band,  
Hope's kindling watch-fires brightly gleam,  
And still we cull the golden sand  
That lies in thy exhaustless stream.

Within thy halls, Psi Upsilon,  
No clouds obscure the rosy sky;  
We lightly think of moments gone,  
We seize the moments as they fly;  
And mirth, and jest, an' merry song  
Fill the glad measure of our hours;  
The flowers of pleasure bloom not long—  
Secure them quickly while they're ours.

## THE GENESIS OF THE BETA.—I.

On or about Mayday, 1839, William Erigena Robinson, then a Sophomore in Yale, arrived at Schenectady for the purpose of visiting George Monilaws, who was just finishing his four years' course at Union College. The Yalensian found his friend a member of the PSI UPSILON, an association of which he had previously heard little or nothing, and was speedily introduced to others of the Chapter. A mutual liking was the immediate result. Robinson, at that time, as through all his subsequent career—as the "Richelieu" of our pre-Rebellion period, as editor, orator, and congressman—was the most genial of men, blessed with that ardent temperament, that unselfish honesty of purpose, that social vivacity which rarely fail to attract and charm. Men like Van Vorst and Pettit and Monilaws, the leading men of that period of the Theta, were every way worthy of his regard. Almost at once the idea of establishing a chapter of the young fraternity in Yale, through Robinson's intermediation, occurred to the members of the Chapter. Robinson, himself, eagerly accepted the proposition. The brief record of his admission to the Theta is as follows:—

*Special Meeting, May 3, 1839.*

Θ convened by order of the Master. Mr. W. E. Robinson of Yale College was proposed, and the Constitution being laid aside, he was elected. Adjourned.

J. W. VANDERVEER, Sec.

*Special Meeting, May 3, 1839.*

Θ met by order of the Master. Mr. Robinson was initiated. Society adjourned. J. W. VANDERVEER, Sec.

A month later Robinson (Yale College, June 8) writes Monilaws, saying, "Our prospects here, I think, are good,

but I have done nothing yet." He considers "that the most favorable time for doing any thing is not yet come, but that it will come this term." He then goes on to give a very clear account of the position of the existing student organizations at Yale, declares that the project in which they are all so much interested "needs considerable caution and some advice, which I shall be glad to receive from you," and closes by transmitting his "sincere regards to my brother Psis at Union. A finer lot of fellows I don't want to meet."

At a later time Robinson thus narrates the story of the Beta's birth:—"I cannot tell the exact date, but I think that it was in the early part of 1839. I was a Sophomore in Yale and happened to stop at Schenectady to see some friends. Among those I met there were George Monilaws, Hooper C. Van Vorst, Henry White, John W. Vanderveer, E. B. Vedder, C. B. Wheeler, B. F. Dunning, John U. Pettit, and, I believe, William Taylor. Some of these may have been graduates. I did not go on purpose. So far as I was concerned the matter was purely accidental. I think that Van Vorst was A at the time, and that I was initiated in a building near Given's Hotel. I received the information and powers necessary to establish a Chapter in Yale—the first in New England. The consent of all the chapters—then only two—was necessary. It was during the same year and while I was still a Sophomore, say in June, 1839, that, after initiating several of the best fellows in the class above me, I went out into the world and came in again with my classmates. Over the College Chapel there is or was a floor of rooms. I occupied the room at the southwest corner of that floor—number 144—and there I initiated the first men of the chapter, giving them the signs and grip. Soon afterwards rooms were taken and fitted up in Chapel street, near the canal and Post Office, Church street being, I think, the cross street. There we had nice rooms and there I was initiated for the second time."

Judge Hooper C. Van Vorst (Θ 1839), speaking of the event, says:—"I was present at the initiation of William E. Robinson. He, then a member of Yale College, above all desirous of founding a chapter there, came to Schenectady. I remember the occasion well. Robinson is truly the founder of the Yale Chapter. He associated with himself the best members of the College, and thus laid the foundations of a Chapter which has always maintained a high rank. My impression is that Robinson was then a Sophomore, and that he gracefully left the principal management of affairs in the hands of members of the Junior class of his college. Too much praise cannot be awarded Mr. Robinson in this regard. His election at Union was a master-stroke of policy as the result has proved." Of the same affair the Hon. William Taylor (Θ 1837) says:—"In 1839 I was visited in New York by William E. Robinson of Yale. He had been 'caught' (as he told me) by

Br. Monilaws (♾ 1839) on the banks of the Mohawk. He was initiated into the Theta and sent home to found a chapter at Yale. I feared he would not succeed, but he had the good sense to enlist George H. Colton (B 1840), at that time the leading member of his class and editor of the *Yale Literary Magazine*. It was a most magnificent Chapter from the start."

From other sources we have interesting descriptions of the men who established the Beta on its broad and solid foundations. The following is a characteristic

ACCOUNT BY THE REV. HENRY M. DEXTER, D. D. (B 1840).

I am afraid it is not much of value that I can add to what you already know in regard to  $\Psi \Gamma$  at Yale. I was one of the founders, but I fear I cannot be absolutely positive in regard to all my recollections—except that we used to have royal good times; that the influence of the thing upon me (who was very young—nineteen—the day before I graduated) was strong and salutary, both in a literary and general point of view; and that, all things considered, I look back to that as the most helpful *one* thing which I encountered at New Haven.

There are thirteen Founders, who were, at the time, Juniors, coming Seniors, and who elected thirteen from the class next below, who soon came in and became "Associate Founders," as we might say. Of our thirteen, James S. Babcock was a noble and royal soul, a mature (and even then, learned) man, and a sweet poet. He died young, and a volume of Remains—of prose and poetry—attests his rare ability. A little poem of his on "The Clouds" still floats in my memory as unique on that theme. Booth was a hard student and a clean-hearted, clear-headed, strong man. He is now Judge and Professor in the Law School at Chicago. Brinsmade was amiable and tended to be useful, and has been Superintendent of the Connecticut River Railroad. Childs was perhaps the oldest of the class, had a most practical turn, and has made money in bridge building. Colton was one of a family of odd (but real) geniuses, was a magnificent Greek scholar, was our Salutatorian, and, as the class thought, ought to have been Valedictorian, and had rare qualities in rare minglings. He was a poet, and published "Tecumseh," and started, edited and, before his too early death, well founded the *American Whig Review*—which (running into *Putnam's* and through the two series of that) now lives in *Scribner's*. Hollister is a lawyer with literary turns and tastes, was our class poet, and has written at least one novel, "Mount Hope," and a two-volume "History of Connecticut." Hubbard was an average sort of man, has made a very good Congregational minister; has been in Europe a good deal, and now takes his *otium cum dignitate* in the neighborhood of Bennington, Vermont [since deceased]. James did a great work, with his royal common sense, his sunny temper, and his will to hard work; was pastor at Wrentham, Worcester and Lowell, served as chaplain of a Massachusetts Regiment in the Rebellion and as Superintendent of Freedmen in the South afterwards, traveled in Europe twice, and, poor fellow, died within the year a most lingering death of consumption. Kelley died young, and I don't much remember him, except that he was tall and had a freckled face. Lawrence still lives, after considerable various service as a Congregational minister, a respectable, useful man. Noyes is a fine general scholar; has been Secretary of Home Missions and of Home Evangelization, and is now in full vigor and usefulness. If you would write to him I have a notion he could help you infinitely more than I can. Smith—"Big Smith" yept, in distinction from a little fellow in the class of that small and select family—was a burly Yankee, of general gumption, and a vague expression in his general air of probably doing something some time, which would move and astonish the world—if he didn't forget it. He died in a few years, at the South, where he went to teach.

As to the circumstances which led to the formation of the Beta Chapter, I am almost certain that our Chapter came from the original Theta Chapter at Schenectady.

*Greystones, New Bedford, 15 March, 1876.*

There exists, fortunately enough, a second chapter of reminiscences by another of the earliest and most eminent sons of the Beta. It, too, is rich in felicitous sketches of character; but the author, by a lapse of memory, makes the chapter originate at Hamilton instead of at Union. It will be given in the next issue of THE DIAMOND.

## THE DIAMOND.

JANUARY OF THE FRATERNITY YEAR XLVI.

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231 Broadway, New York City.

#### THE CHAPTERS.

*THETA* (Union College 1833).—Chapter House, 7 Quackenbush street, Schenectady. Meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. H. D. Hobbs, Box 314, Schenectady, N. Y.

*DELTA* (University of the City of New York 1836).—Chapter Rooms, 15 East 14th street, New York City; meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. W. J. Roome, jr., University, Washington Square, New York City.

*BETA* (Yale College 1839).—Chapter House, north side of High street, near Elm, New Haven; meets Tuesday evening; correspondence to Mr. H. H. Donaldson, Box 646, New Haven, Conn.

*SIGMA* (Brown University 1840).—Chapter Rooms, Weybosset street, Providence; meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. C. A. Nightingale, Brown University, Providence, R. I.

*GAMMA* (Amherst College 1841).—Chapter Rooms, Cutler's Block, Main street, Amherst; meets Tuesday evening; correspondence to Mr. G. T. Eaton, Lock Box 17, Amherst, Mass.

*ZETA* (Dartmouth College 1842).—Chapter Rooms, Brick Block, Main street, Hanover; meets Wednesday evening; correspondence to Mr. F. W. Gove, Lock Box 468, Hanover, N. H.

*LAMBDA* (Columbia College 1842).—Chapter Rooms, 15 East 21st street, corner of Broadway, New York City; meets Wednesday evening; correspondence to Mr. W. P. Allen, Columbia College, New York City.

*KAPPA* (Bowdoin College 1842).—Chapter Rooms, Townsend's Building, Main street, Brunswick; meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. E. F. Varney, Box 1079, Brunswick, Me.

*PSI* (Hamilton College 1843).—Chapter Rooms, Sherman Block, north side of Park Row, Clinton; meets Wednesday evening; correspondence to Mr. C. H. Ray, Box 403, Clinton, N. Y.

*XI* (Wesleyan University 1843).—Chapter House, Broad street, near Court, Middletown; meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. E. A. Sumner, Box 1221, Middletown, Conn.

*ALPHA* (Harvard College 1850).—Chapter inactive; correspondence relating to its earlier period may be addressed to Professor James Mills Peirce, Harvard College; relating to its later period to Professor Horatio Stevens White, Cornell University.

*UPSILON* (University of Rochester 1858).—Chapter Rooms, 59 State street, Rochester; meets Monday evening; correspondence to Mr. J. A. Hayden, Lock Box 11, Rochester, N. Y.

*IOTA* (Kenyon College 1860).—Chapter Rooms, one mile East of College, Gambier; meets Saturday evening; correspondence to Mr. J. P. Coates, Box 159, Gambier, O.

*PHI* (University of Michigan 1865).—Chapter Rooms, corner of Liberty and Main streets, Ann Arbor; meets Saturday evening; correspondence to Mr. J. H. Raymond, Lock Box 96, Ann Arbor, Mich.

*OMEGA* (University of Chicago 1869).—Chapter Rooms, Concordia Hall, 22d street, Chicago; meets Monday evening; correspondence to Mr. J. D. S. Riggs, University, Chicago, Ill.

*PI* (Syracuse University 1875).—Chapter Rooms, Clary Block, Clinton street, Syracuse; meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. M. D. Babcock, Drawer 128, Syracuse, N. Y.

*CHI* (Cornell University 1876).—Chapter House, corner of Buffalo and Quarry streets, Ithaca; meets Friday evening; correspondence to Mr. L. H. Porter, Lock Box 11, Ithaca, N. Y.

\* \* \* *Corrections to the above may be addressed to the Publisher.*

Every body will hail with delight the announcement that the new quarto General Catalogue has at length gone to press. It ought to be ready in two months.

Future issues of THE DIAMOND will contain letters from the surviving Founders of the Psi Upsilon, giving full details of its organization; similar letters from the Founders of the various Chapters; several new Fraternity Songs; a chapter of incidents connected with the history of the Badge; an account of a mid-ocean Psi Upsilon meeting, held on board an Atlantic steamer; the programme of arrangements for the coming Convention; the latest intelligence from the various Chapters; and many interesting anecdotes derived from the Fraternity's History.

The Thanksgiving Banquet given by the Detroit Psi Upsilon Alumni Association to the Phi Chapter, was one of the finest affairs of the kind which has ever taken place in the west. The Chapter and several of the Psi Upsilon Professors of the University of Michigan engaged a special palace-car for the trip from Ann Arbor to Detroit. At eleven o'clock on Thanksgiving eve the Association and its guests sat down; poems were read by the Hon. John M. Wheeler (Θ 1841), Treasurer of the University, and by Mr. G. M. Williams (X 1879), while the responses to the toasts showed that twelve Chapters were represented. The programme and bill of fare were very handsomely printed, and a pamphlet, containing a full account of the proceedings, is to be published by the Association. On Thanksgiving Day the Phi held a reception in its palace-car, which was attended by many ladies and gentlemen of the City of the Straits.

#### THE THETA CHAPTER HOUSE.

At Union College ten of the members of the parent Chapter of the Psi Upsilon are living together in a rented house, which stands hard by the campus. The house contains, in addition to the studies and sleeping rooms of the occupants, a Chapter Hall and a prettily furnished sitting-room. Its cheerful, comfortable apartments, its neatly carpeted passages, its air of culture, and its quiet, home-like character present a striking contrast to the cheerless, barrack-like dormitories of our Colleges, which are, in general, admirably calculated to foster barbarous manners and to make the daily life of a student that of a boor. The influence, upon the discipline of a College, of Chapter Houses, like those now coming into vogue at many of the institutions with which the Fraternity is connected, is every way healthy. The close ties which bind together the members of a Chapter lead them, of course, to live in harmony, and the strong Chapter feeling induces a sentiment of pride in regard to the house and the maintenance

of good order in it. In short the experiment has been fairly tried at Union and elsewhere and has proved a thorough success. Wealthy and influential members of the Psi Upsilon can confer no greater boon, either upon their Colleges or upon the Fraternity, than to aid in the erection of similar Chapter Houses everywhere.

The Theta is about to make an earnest effort to secure a Chapter House which shall belong to the Chapter. The ownership of such a structure will enable the Chapter to reduce the price of rents—to make the rooms not only better but cheaper than the college dormitory or the almost equally cheerless boarding house apartments—and will put it in a position to be of greater utility to its members. It is desired to secure a house large enough to accommodate all the members, one which will cost from \$12,000 to \$15,000. Half of this sum it is proposed to raise at once among the graduates of the Chapter, leaving the remainder to be paid off by means of future subscriptions and by the rents derived from the rooms. To secure proper financial management the "Psi Upsilon Alumni Association of Union College" is about to be incorporated—among the incorporators being such men as Judge Hadley of Waterloo (one of the Founders), Judge Jackson of Schenectady, Judge Van Vorst of New York city, the Rev. Theodore Babcock D. D., of Manlius, the Hon. Lyman K. Bass of Buffalo, Professors Lamoroux and Price of Union College, and others equally well known to the public and to the Fraternity. Of this Association every Psi Upsilon graduate of Union will be a member, and the property, when acquired, will be vested in the Association and will be under its management. It is confidently hoped that every old member of the Theta will respond to the call, soon to be made, with true Psi Upsilon liberality. The present extremely flourishing condition of the Chapter, the high character of the undergraduates who compose its active members, the care with which its records, dating back to 1833, have been preserved, the glorious history of the Chapter, the warm interest in its welfare recently manifested by so many of its earlier members, the new era which has dawned upon old Union—all these things lead us to hope that the Theta will soon be put in possession of a dwelling worthy of the cherishing mother of so many noble sons.

#### FRATERNITY NEWS.

Θ.—The Chapter, as is stated elsewhere, has evidently entered upon a period of flattering prosperity. The occupation of a temporary Chapter House has done much to bring about this condition of things; the members are also greatly encouraged by the hope of securing, before long, a permanent home, and are warmly interested in the plans for accomplishing this result. Three members of the Θ, Professor Lamoroux (1844), Professor Price (1872), and Tutor S. W. Buck (1876), are now attached to the Union Faculty. The Chapter has lately received visits from the Rev. Thomas S. Yocom (1856) and other old members. One of the present lower classmen, Br. McNulty, carried off a large number of the prizes in the annual college athletic sports.

Δ.—Second on the roll of Chapters the Delta has, at scarcely any stage of its existence, been second to the most

zealous of its sisters in its regard for the Fraternity; and the temporary financial losses which are reported to have fallen upon the University of the City of New York seem to have had no influence upon the Chapter's present prosperity. One of its recent graduates, Mr. H. B. McCauley, jr., is known to be the soul, so to speak, of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Contests, and the same gentleman has displayed great energy in editing the Delta's lists for the Catalogue of 1878. In the course of the latter work he was fortunate enough to recover an early and valuable volume of the Chapter's proceedings, which had been accidentally removed from its archives, so that the set of its documents is now perfect. The active members of the Delta number seventeen.

*B.*—Next year the Chapter at Yale will complete its fourth decade. During this long period it has usually stood at the head of the Fraternity and has exercised great weight in Fraternity affairs. In the conventions of the Psi Upsilon its sons have been among the sagest counsellors, and have filled the highest positions. At the forthcoming annual gathering of the Chapters one of its eminent graduates will serve as Orator, and another is very likely to be the Convention's Chaplain. Thanks to the aid so liberally afforded by Professor F. B. Dexter (1861), the Rev. J. H. Twichell (1859) and others of its old members, the Yale lists for the new Catalogue have been very fully revised, and will form a record interesting to every Psi Upsilon reader. The Beta's present membership is upwards of forty.

*Σ.*—No Chapter probably has passed through more trials in the course of its history than the Sigma. Good President Wayland had a craze on the subject of Greek Letter Societies, but little milder in its form than that which has seized upon the rather misty mind of the Scotch Dr. McCosh. Some of the Brown authorities still look with an unfriendly eye upon the Greek Letter Associations, but the Sigma has at least two warm friends—old and hearty members of the Fraternity—among the powers that be. It now possesses an active membership of eighteen.

*Γ.*—On the evening of Friday, October 8, the Gamma admitted one member of the Sophomore Class and nine members of the Freshman Class. In the upper classes it now has twelve Seniors, ten Juniors and nine Sophomores, or a total membership of forty. The Chapter maintains its old reputation for musical ability and has an admirable quartette.

*Z.*—Dartmouth's Chapter is, as usual, strong in numbers, nor would it be easy to find thirty-five more enthusiastic Psi Upsilon members than those who compose its present active membership. The Chapter had the misfortune, during the past year, to lose one of the most eminent of its founders. This was the Hon. John S. Sanborn of Montreal, who was, for some time, an honored member of the Canadian Parliament, and who died, last autumn, as Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench in his adopted country.

*Λ.*—At Columbia the chief conversational topic is the proposed sending of a four-oared crew to England, with the view of encountering Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin at the midsummer Henley Regatta. Of the crew selected, Captain Goodwin and two others are members of the Chapter. The Lambda is as large and prosperous as ever, having twenty-seven members, and its pleasant rooms are frequently visited by graduates as well as undergraduates. An old member, the Rev. Dr. George F. Seymour, has just been elected Bishop of Springfield.

*K.*—The Kappa—the Star in the East—flourishes as radiantly as ever. With eight men from 1881, it now has a total active membership approaching thirty. A dozen or more of its graduates returned last Fall to participate in its yearly initiation ceremonies, which were held in its spacious and elegantly furnished Chapter Rooms. The projected revival of the old Psi Upsilon Graduate Association of

Portland, if carried out, will be a marked benefit to the organization.

*Ψ.*—Like most of the Chapters the Psi was more than usually fortunate in its last annual elections, and has a larger membership in the class of 1881 than in any previous Freshman class for several years. Its financial position is good, no debt having been incurred in consequence of the Convention of 1876. The total undergraduate membership is fourteen.

*Ξ.*—The Xi is just taking possession of its new Chapter House, which has cost upwards of \$12,000 and is all paid for. The corner stone was laid at the last Wesleyan Commencement, and the work has been so pushed that the structure is thus completed within the short space of half a year. The front bears the Badge carved in stone, besides several inscriptions in panels.

*Α.*—Some of the older members of the Alpha have notified the editor of the new General Catalogue that all previous Catalogues have omitted the names of the Psi Upsilon members of the Harvard class of 1858, and asked that they might hereafter be inserted. Among these names are those of General Fitzhugh Lee of Virginia and the Hon. A. S. Hartwell, Attorney-General of the Hawaiian Islands. There were eight other members, all of whom have communicated with the editor.

*Υ.*—The coming Convention is the uppermost topic at the Upsilon. A committee of five, three Alumni and two undergraduates, Mr. J. A. Hayden (1878) chairman, has been appointed to make all necessary arrangements. The Rev. Joseph A. Ely (*Υ* 1866) has accepted an invitation to deliver the Poem, and Governor Daniel H. Chamberlain (*B* 1862) will be the Orator of the occasion. The Convention is to be held during the first week in May. The Chapter now numbers eighteen members.

*Ι.*—Usually very small in numbers, the Kenyon Chapter still clings to life with a pluck and tenacity which deserve the appreciation of its larger sisters. Just now the list of its members embraces only five or six names, but this is happily no criterion for the future. The Iota will soon be called upon to decide whether it will hold the Convention of 1879 or waive the privilege in favor of the Phi.

*Φ.*—The Phi continues to be *facile princeps* among the student organizations of Michigan's great university. A feature of the literary exercises is a weekly paper, which never lacks contributors or auditors. The Chapter, which now numbers twenty-seven undergraduates, greatly enjoyed its recent excursion to Detroit, a full account of which appeared in the Ann Arbor and other Western journals.

*Ω.*—The westernmost Chapter of the Fraternity has, at present, fifteen members, which, considering the number of undergraduates attending the University of Chicago, is certainly as many as could reasonably be expected. It is otherwise, too, in a flourishing condition.

*Π.*—The Syracuse Chapter, although one of the youngest, is one of the most active and zealous of the Fraternity's branches. It is discussing, with ardor, the plans of a Chapter House to be erected on Forman Park, a pleasant locality half way between the University and the heart of Syracuse. It has upwards of twenty members.

*X.*—At the annual initiation of the Chi, graduates of the *Θ*, *Δ*, *B*, *Ψ*, *A* and *X* were present. Among those from the Beta was the Hon. F. M. Finch, the laureate of the Fraternity. During the evening the Chapter Glee Club sang all of his *Ψ T* songs. The Chi's undergraduate membership is twenty-seven.