STRANGE as it may seem, yet the fact was painfully discovered, that data, with reference to the establishment of our Literary Societies, and their successive stages of development, are very scant. When this novitiate historian was asked to sketch the progress of Theta Alpha, prompted by the expectancy of finding an abundance of documentary evidence as to the society's identity, he gave his sails to the zephyrs of literary ambition and was wafted against a rock.

Moral: Ye Pedestrian Club and Shakesperian exponents, keep your records intact and secure; for, some day in the far distant future some poor oppressed youth may be called upon to present an account of the important part you are supposed to play in college life.

Theta Alpha was born in the year of our Lord, 1846. However, his Grecian parents were loath to decide upon a name for their robust and rapidly growing babe, consequently the boy was known as Literary Society until 1850 when he was called Theta Alpha.

"Thet" was a bright boy and one of great intellectual and oratorical promise. His early education consisted of debate, recitations, essays and orations. Strange to say the curriculum pursued by "Thet" during his long collegiate course has not been changed: hence we must infer that these early educators built a firm foundation. For him a "cinch" course was chosen—had only one recitation a week and that, in his under-classman years, on Saturday morning at 9.30. When "Thet" became an upper-classman, for his own personal convenience, time of recitation was changed to Friday evening at 7.00.

Many interesting anecdotes might be cited setting forth the peculiarities of his development. However, as a result of his long literary training "Thet," in company with his twin brother "Euep," engaged in the publishing business. Their greatest and most popular publication was the old "College Herald." Though a magazine of much literary merit and one which reflected much credit upon both "Thet" and "Euep," and honor upon their Alma Mater yet "The College Herald" was short lived, expiring in 1875.

Then too, many, many dark questions and dry problems have been illumined and solved in the weekly recitations of this learned youth—a strong vociferous exponent of "Womens Rights" and "Down with the Saloon."
intoxicating voice and magnetic presence of this famous declaimer many an unsophisticated youth has been inspired to flights of oratory in which heroes have been hailed, dignitaries defied and many wrongs righted.

The question may be asked why "Thet" does not graduate. It is not because he hasn't brains enough, nor because he "takes to hazing inasmuch as he does not stand in with the ladies." Oh, no! He is a valuable man and the University has seen fit to make him a "Frater in Urbe" or something of the sort which makes his stay permanent. "Thet" is a popular fellow belongs to all the "frats," Π Φ, etc., expected. He is also much interested in "non-frat" life, taking an active part in it.

Thus we see how Theta Alpha came into existence and the active part he has played in college life. But leaving jokes aside, the literary society performs a valuable function in the student life. While at present the god of prosperity graciously smiles upon it, yet a more active interest should be taken in it because of a more general participation.

The man who holds close what he gets,
There's nothing slow with him.
'Tis cheaper far than twenty jets
To burn one lantern dim.—Main College

They say there's a war in Japan
And the papers we eagerly scan,
The names that we find
Are as clear to our mind
As the literature on a tea can.