

The Awakening: A Reminiscence

By Solomon J. Williamson, '11

A LONG the porphyry-paved ave-
 nues
 I strolled while myriad star-gems flung
 their hues
 Of glory iridescent o'er my head;
 The diamond, sapphire, and the ruby
 red,
 Pale amethyst, pearls, opals, emeralds
 green
 Vied to outshine the starry vault se-
 rene;
 A zephyr redolent as from Eden's
 bowers
 My temples gently fanned; the
 winged hours
 Seemed to regale all nature with
 sweet lays,
 And all above, around, was charged
 with notes of praise.

 I looked around. The world seemed
 wondrous fair,
 Nor fabled scenes of Ormuzd could
 compare
 With this extravagance—this jewelled
 waste—
 These heavenly beauties with barbaric
 taste
 That garnished earth and trees su-
 preme bright
 With everchanging opalescent light.
 But why this lavish wealth of love-
 liness,
 This prodigality in nature's dress?
 I could not answer, aye, could not
 define,
 Until this answer came as if from lips
 divine.

 "Fierce Winter long had wooed the
 gentle Spring,
 And to his palace soon the maid
 would bring;
 But she not with his frigid heart
 content,
 Sought to procrastinate the glad
 event.
 Reluctant she to change her fairy
 home
 In southern seas for Boreas' ice-bound
 dome.
 But now, the welcome time had come.
 At last,
 Stern Boreas' angry storms were over-
 past;
 All nature sought her secret doors to
 fling
 Wide ope in grateful welcome to the
 smiling Spring.

"The groom, his chambers better to
 adorn,
 Labored intense from dusk to golden
 morn;
 He caused the fountains of the sky
 to flow
 O'er all the trees that clothed the
 earth below
 With bared limbs unlovely to the
 view;
 And then, a breath of icy wind he
 blew
 Athwart the landscape. Lo! erst-
 while the scene
 Cheerless and gray now shines with
 starry sheen
 Of gems translucent, flowers and fruits
 of gold,
 Sparkled aloft, below, earth paved
 with pearls untold."

 I lift mine eyes above the scintillant
 trees,
 Their jewelled clusters rustling in the
 breeze,
 And soon a host of fairy forms aspled,
 Radiant as sunbeams dancing far and
 wide
 O'er polished floors of ivory whose
 sheen
 Outstripped the stars. Upon a throne
 their queen
 Sate and a sceptre held within her
 hand,
 Inlaid with choicest gems of Afric's
 land;
 Her mien, as 'twere the Cyprian's
 queen; her face,
 Like morning's blushing sun, adorned
 with Vesper's grace.

 Enrapt upon that beauteous form I
 gazed,
 Like some poor wight with mistress'
 charms amazed.
 But not for long. That being looked
 and smiled
 On me transfixed like timid gaping
 child,
 And in a voice of sweetest music said:
 "Behold 'twas prophesied that I should
 wed
 The fairest of Earth's sons. Lo! there
 he stands.
 Go bring him, fairies, bound with
 silken bands.
 My jewelled sceptre at his feet I'll
 cast,

Haste, fairies, welcome him, hail him
your king at last!"

She flung that sceptre with such aim
and force,

It struck me full upon the head—of
course—

Ruitne coelum? did the heavens fall?
That missile struck me like a great
base-ball

By twirler hurled on college campus
wide.

Hurled, but not caught, nor deftly
turned aside.

* * * * *
I looked again. The world seemed
darkest night

For full five seconds; then again was
light.

Some stars, some icicles, some drops
of blood,

A crow; thus ends my song, but, ah,
the dream was good.

Prizes Awarded for Economic Essays.

Awards interesting to students of Michigan colleges have been made by a committee of economists for the best essays submitted by college graduates and teachers. Four prizes in all, aggregating nearly \$2,000, have been given.

The committee which awarded the prizes consisted of Professor J. Laurence Laughlin of the University of Chicago, J. B. Clark of Columbia University, Henry C. Adams of the University of Michigan, Horace White of New York city, and President Carrol D. Wright of Clark College. The donors of the prizes are Messrs. Hart, Schaffner & Marx, of Chicago.

The announcement of the awards is as follows:

Class A—Graduates.

1. The first prize of one thousand dollars to Oscar Douglas Skelton, A. B., Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, 1900; graduate student in the University of Chicago; Ph. D., the University of Chicago, 1908; Professor of Political Economy in Queen's University; for a paper entitled "The Case Against Socialism."

2. The second prize of five hundred dollars to Emily Fogg Meade (Mrs. Edward Sherwood Meade), A. B., the University of Chicago, 1897; Fellow at Bryn Mawr, 1897-1899; Fellow at University of Pennsylvania, 1899-1900; for a paper entitled "Agricultural Resources of the United States."

Class B—Undergraduates.

1. The first prize of three hundred dollars to A. E. Pinanski, Harvard University, 1908, for a paper entitled "The Street Railway System of Metropolitan Boston."

2. The second prize of one hundred and fifty dollars to William Shea, Cornell University, 1909, for a paper entitled "The Case Against Socialism."

Notice was also given by the committee that writers and students who wish to compete for the prizes offered for 1909 will