



BASKETBALL IN THE SMITH COLLEGE GYMNASIUM.

## LIFE AT A GIRLS' COLLEGE.

The Smith girls at work and at play—Their college buildings, their studies and amusements, their secret societies, their customs and traditions.



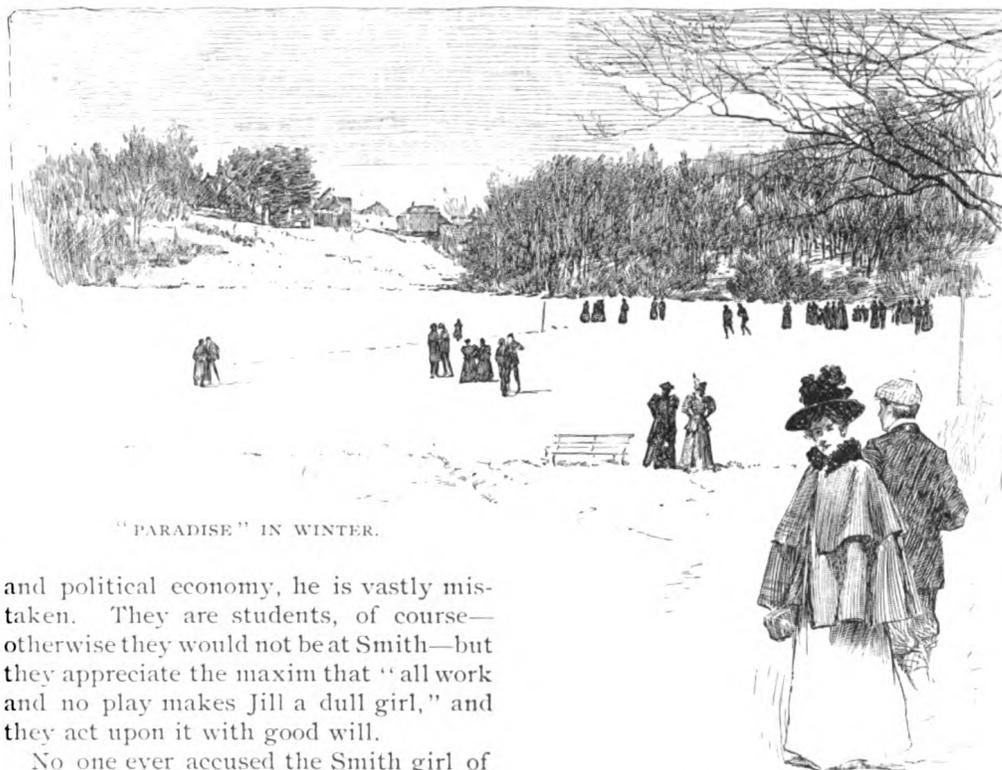
THE claim is justly made for the old town of Northampton, Massachusetts, that it makes provision for a wide variety of earthly needs. It contains a lunatic asylum, an institute for the deaf and dumb, a water cure establishment—and a girls' college. In addition to these beneficent human agencies, the town is liberally endowed by nature with the gifts at her disposal. Not only is it most picturesquely placed on elevated ground near the bank of the Connecticut River, but it affords a wide view of the Connecticut valley, so

that for charms within and without it is a spot to be remembered.

The town, which Smith College has made notable, consists of one principal street stretching out interminably. The college is situated at one end of the village, on an eminence commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. The buildings are well constructed, though unpretentious in comparison to some of the larger American universities. But the whole place is wonderfully attractive and homelike. It has more the appearance of a group of well kept private dwellings than that of a seat of learning, a place for work and study. And they do study, the daughters of "Fair Smith," in a manner that would put the average college man to shame. Yet if any one supposes that these young women are a set of "grinds," that they all wear glasses and masculine collars, and go about continually talking women's rights



"PARADISE" IN SUMMER.



"PARADISE" IN WINTER.

and political economy, he is vastly mistaken. They are students, of course—otherwise they would not be at Smith—but they appreciate the maxim that "all work and no play makes Jill a dull girl," and they act upon it with good will.

No one ever accused the Smith girl of being dull. She blends work and fun in such happy proportions that to her life is always interesting. She is neither a bookworm nor an idler, but keen intellectual competition and wholesome physical activity combine to bring out all that is best in her. On any bright day the campus is an extremely interesting sight. From dawn till dark it is always full of

life. The girls are continually flitting from one building to another, or meeting in groups on the smooth, well kept lawn.

Here's a group of just eleven,  
Talking o'er a hard exam. ;  
Here's a group of six or seven,  
Eating ginger snaps and jam !

In pleasant weather the "Smithians "



THE MUSIC BUILDING.



THE COLLEGE HALL.

rarely wear any headgear; or if they do, it is nothing but a "Tam-o'-Shanter." When the weather is cold, they slip over their shoulders a warm golf cape, which may be as easily slipped off again on entering a recitation room. The very sensible fashion prevails of wearing skirts that escape the ground by two or three inches, while many of the girls fairly live in their bicycle costumes.

Founded in 1871 by Sophia Smith, of Hatfield, Massachusetts, the college has long since outgrown the capacity of its own dormitories, but all about the grounds houses and cottages have sprung up which, during the college year, are devoted wholly to the use of the Smith girls. The campus houses are naturally more in demand than those outside, and there is always a long waiting list of applicants who are anxious to obtain rooms in them.

The outside houses are beyond the jurisdiction of the college authorities, and the girls living in them have greater freedom than those living in the college buildings, for here such rules as "lights

out at ten," "no breakfast if late," are more or less rigidly enforced.

A decided innovation in the dormitory life of Smith is the handsome building which has recently been erected outside the campus. It is a massive pile of masonry that conveys the impression of having wandered from its foundation in some large city. It has all the modern conveniences, from steam heat and electric lights to an elevator with a boy in buttons. These "improvements" are all very well in their way; but when a girl surrounds herself with all the paraphernalia of hotel existence, she is apt to find that she is not quite in touch with that democratic spirit which is one of the greatest charms of the life at Smith. The cost of living in such a dormitory is, of course, greater than in the other houses, and so, naturally, the occupants are regarded more or less as a class by themselves—as girls of means. Such a distinction is, of course, made unconsciously, but it exists nevertheless, and results in the formation of "cliques"—always an unfortunate feature of undergraduate life.



A SMITH GIRL'S ROOM.



THE CHAPEL.

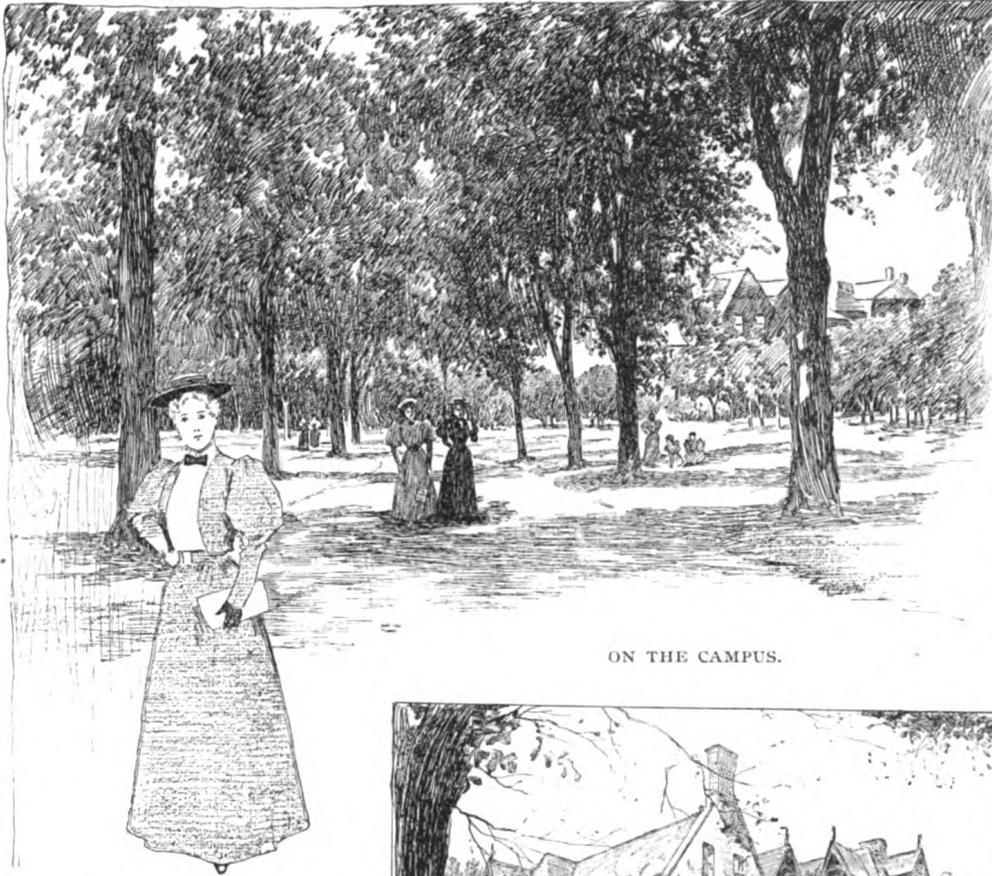
In the campus houses such cliques can have no existence. The daughter of the man who owns two or three railroads has no better surroundings and no more comforts than the ambitious girl who is working her way through college. Of the latter there are quite a number, and they exhibit much ingenuity in devising ways and means of self support. One girl is noted for the stylish shirt waists she makes, and her needle is kept busy in

this direction. This same girl plays the piano for any dance that may be given. Another almost entirely supports herself with her camera, while a third is correspondent for several newspapers.

The curriculum at Smith is practically the same as that at any first class university, but the pastimes are vastly different. Basketball is the most popular game, and keen is the rivalry between the classes. The contests are held in the se-



THE OBSERVATORY.



ON THE CAMPUS.

clusion of the college gymnasium. Basketball is not unlike a mild form of football, and, while it avoids the danger of the latter, it is well calculated to arouse the enthusiasm of rival classes to the highest pitch. Boating and tennis are also favorite amusements in their season, and in winter there is skating, in which the Amherst students often join.

One of the first places shown to the visitor is "Paradise." This delightful spot—the name is applied, in a general way, to a pretty sheet of water and the charming, shady walks near by—is the favorite retreat of the Smith girls. On pleasant half holidays one may see many of them wending their way in its direction, laden with sofa pillows and



THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.



THE IVY PROCESSION.

“fudge”—a kind of home made candy, locally in great demand.

The principal secret societies at Smith are the Alpha and the Phi Kappa Psi, to either one of which a girl may be elected after her freshman year. In order to be eligible an undergraduate must possess decided talent for literature, or else be a general favorite.

Graduation time is marked by many time honored observances. The seniors

wear white dresses for the last three days of the college year. One of these is known as “Ivy Day,” and on it the departing class plants an ivy vine near College Hall. It is a pretty sight to see the “sweet girl graduates,” all in white, marching two by two across the green campus.

*Douglas Z. Doty.*



THE LILLY HALL OF SCIENCE.