

**YALE YARNS;  
SKETCHES OF LIFE AT  
YALE UNIVERSITY**

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Yale Yarns; Sketches of Life at Yale University by John Seymour Wood

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**JOHN SEYMOUR WOOD**

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YALE UNIVERSITY**



TO VNU  
ANNUAL



VANDERBILT HALL.

# YALE YARNS

SKETCHES OF LIFE AT YALE  
UNIVERSITY

BY

JOHN SEYMOUR WOOD

AUTHOR OF "GRAMERCY PARK," "AN OLD BEAU," ETC.

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"A college joke to cure the dumps."

DEAN SWIFT

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ILLUSTRATED

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TO  
HENRY E. HOWLAND  
YALE '54

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## PREFACE.

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THE difficulty of suiting every one in a college story is greater than the casual reader may imagine. Aside from the cheek of the young maiden which may not be incarnadined under any consideration, and the maiden aunt who sees an utter lack of refinement in the daily student life, there is the old grad. who says it is n't as it was in *his* day, and the undergrad. who maintains it is n't as it is in *his*! If you describe the life of the "rowdy element," you may offend the "digs"; if you confine yourself to the "better element"—the good boys—the "earnest workers," the smart young Junior asks if you are describing life in a State Normal school or a female reformatory; if you poke fun at the faculty you have a fine array of parents and guardians about your ears; if you tell of things that happened in your day, the *Courant* and witty

little *Record* show you up for an absurd old fossil who ought to have sense enough to stay buried and not insist on coming to life again; if you are flippant or hint of the seamy side of college life, the ponderous old *Lit* may pronounce your effort worthless and condemn you as the "enemy of Yale,"—and if so, it would be better a thousand millstones were hanged about your neck at once, for the oldest and at the same time, the "youngest" magazine in America pronounces literary judgments which are terribly and wondrously final.

Then there arises the difficulty of slang. What slang shall your college hero use? Yesterday's, to-day's, or to-morrow's? Much of the slang of four years ago is dead now. Are your stories up to date? If so to-day, they will not be next year. The privilege of quoting from a recent letter of an undergrad. has been afforded us. It is *apropos* on this point. He says:

"To begin with, there are nearly four varieties of slang used in the University,—approximately one for each class. Very evident is this when you are in conversation with a Freshman, or what is better, have the good luck to overhear two of these infants discoursing on college life. They import, every year, the very latest Bowery style, and while most of it soon wears