By HORACE JULES FENTON
The members of the Plebe Class, United States Naval Academy, were not asked to tell in full English exercise to state their reasons for coming to the institution. The answers were varied, and no one or any other reason was definitely stated. All answers were penned in staccato sentences, for naval Academy regulations do not admit of joking, yet many glanced with that unconscious humor which proves the tidiness of the instructor's life.

It is gratifying to note that the education which these young men have been undergoing in the Academy during the past four years has attracted these boys rather more than anything else. About 42 per cent. of the class gave as their reason for coming that they wanted to get an education. As one put it, "I wanted to get the best technical training I could get, and so I came to the Naval Academy." Another put the same essay with the sweeping statement that "the educational advantages and opportunities are superior to any other institution in the country."

Very gratifying to the Naval Academy, I am sure, but alas, for poor Harvard, Yale, Cornell, &c. Where is the world do they stand?

Another would-be officer, badly afflicted with a common misfortune, put the same idea in a different way. "The subjects taught," he wrote, "are practical, interesting, and the best of all, the students are well fed." At which point his essay came to an abrupt end. If he was looking for marks, better spelling might have brought them. The fact that education at the Naval Academy, like salvation, is free, was not wholly overlooked, for a round dozen of young officers offered this as an additional factor in their cases.

"The enemy of the place attracted me," said one; "if I had gone to college I would have cost me a good bit of money." No, it is hoped, will any student ever realize this.

The Campus, Annapolis.

Why They Entered Annapolis
One "Thirsted for Power," Another Wanted to Dance and "Make a Hit With the Ladies," But Eagerness for Education and Patriotism Were Not Lacking

The company consisted of officers who had seen the world and were ready to become officers. They had been in the Navy, and were now the Navy. They had been in the Army, and were now the Army. They had been in the Air Force, and were now the Air Force. They had been in the Space Force, and were now the Space Force.

Why They Entered Annapolis: One "Thirsted for Power," Another Wanted to Dance and "Make a Hit With the Ladies."

By HORACE JULES FENTON
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pg. 76

But Eagerness for Education and Patriotism Were Not Lacking
(Continued from Page 6)

...gap in the Construction Corps. Wrote he naively, "It occurred to me one day that the United States needed more naval constructors for her ships. Hence," &c. No doubt the suffering Government will avail itself of his services.

Another, after vainly beating about for some time in a mental fog, finally anchored his ship of thought to the following lucid proposition: "Being unable to financially go to any excellent college, I became finally at last convinced that the Naval Academy was the place for me." It is to be hoped that before this youth becomes a grizzled Admiral he will be able to express himself with more conciseness.

"As for me, I thirsted for power," declared one; and, indeed, the possibility of enjoying at some future time the relation of superior to inferior was a desirable notion to several. One came because he could find nothing better to do. He has probably found something to do and plenty of it by this time, for Virgil's phrase "ferret opus" aptly describes the midshipman's daily life. One member of the class confessed to the thing that undid Caesar: "I came," he said, "because I was ambitious." Let him beware the Ides of Februarys. Another, evidently speaking from experience, for he has twice fallen back into the entering class, acknowledged that "he liked the life and the opportunity offered." Surely there is nothing like being satisfied with one's lot in life. Another came as a last resort. "I had tried several other things without success," he wrote, "and so I thought I would try this." His examination paper, be it remarked in passing, seemed to indicate a leaning toward his usual fatality.

Rivalry with a friend stirred another, for he wrote: "I came here mainly to beat out a friend at West Point." Perhaps he will do so, but unless his friend at West Point is uncommonly slow it is likely to be a stern chase. One who seemed to take an aristocratic view of the situation blandly wrote: "I came because I wanted to become an officer and a gentleman. It is an established fact that the best men in the country are in the army and the navy." Alas for those luckless millions who are not!

Alas, too, for the narrow and selfish reasons that move so many young men in the choice of their life work! Money, power, self-aggrandizement, passing whims—these seem to be compelling motives. Accordingly, it is refreshing to read on the paper of one quiet, studious boy the following simple statement: "I came to help my mother." It is safe to assume that a boy who comes to the Naval Academy for any such reason will, after graduation, become an ornament to the naval service.

What, now, is the end of all this? Nothing very definite. We cannot prove anything by statistics, we are sometimes told, and we cannot change human nature much by pointing a moral in public print. All that might be written on this subject from now until the crack of doom would not much affect those anxious youth who year after year steer their courses toward this institution. They will continue to come for motives just as frivolous, with ideals just as noble, as those found in this set of examination papers. How was it the poet so finely expressed it years ago?

A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts.