

DALHOUSIE

COLLEGE GAZETTE.

ORA ET LABORA.

VOL. III.

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NO. 5.

THE TRYSTING SPOT.

'Twas just a grove—a quiet nook,
Where oft I met my love
When calm and clear though branching bows
The moon looked from above.

There oft we met as twilight waned,
And peace drove care away;
Nought to alarm—nought to disturb
Except the lambs at play.

We both were children, yet we loved
As only children do;
Uncaring, unsuspecting,
With tender hearts and true.

O happy hours ne'er to return,
Sweet joys that knew no stain;
I'd give the world if it were mine
To live you o'er again.

Yes, dear to me the memory,
The world can change it not;
I never, never, can forget
That happy trysting spot.

INFLUENCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

History is the recorded effects of a vast multiplicity of causes ever developing from antecedents which find their ultimate origin in the Great First Cause. Individual and communal idiosyncrasies both physical, intellectual, and emotional, with the numberless relations of time, place, and surrounding circumstances—all commingle in seeming confusion and fortuity. Yet it is a part of the great machinery of Being—every motion of one wheel, strictly caused by another revolving pinion—order its first law; but vast in extent and minute in detail, the eye cannot follow the puzzling revolutions and multiform movements which evolve the destinies of individuals, of communities, and nations.

Let us now take a short and necessarily defective glance at the influence exerted by one of the relations of place—geographical position—on the destinies of nations. Civilization was cradled in Assyria, Egypt, Phœnicia, and the adjoining countries east and west. Surrounded by all the advantages of tropical climate and productions, each in its turn with an astonishing rapidity, grew in wealth [and

power. But, notwithstanding that magnificence the very remains of which have long survived more than one of the perishable dynasties which lorded over them, all went down before the more hardy hordes which swept from the bleak plains of Northern Europe and Asia. Such is the effect of climate. When Emerson said, "Where snow falls there is a freedom," he was only enunciating the fact that warm climates have a debilitating effect on the constitution of man, fitting him for political slavery, while the bracing tendency of cold preserves his vigor and manhood. Considering this, have we not reason to congratulate ourselves, that even the severity of a Canadian winter is not an unmixed evil? Also, protected by the polar snow,—that most powerful ally of Russia, we breathe more freely, in view of hostile aggression, under its faithful, though cold guardianship.

History seldom points to the conquest of a northern nation by a southern. But we find it different on the other hand. We find Alans, Sueves and Visigoths settled in Spain, after completing their southward migrations; Lombards from the Baltic coasts in Italy; Scandinavians in France as well as Burgundians and Franks; and so of the rest. The Romans in the pride of their strength endeavoured to stretch the limits of their authority northward. But the Cæsars never climbed the Grampian hills, never picked up shells as trophies of conquest on the Codanian shores, never traversed the plains and steppes of Sarmatia. For the Atillas, the Alarics and the Odoacers of these boreal tribes, in succession struck at and then crumbled to dust that mighty fabric of Empire. Buonaparte—the modern Cæsar—vainly attempted to reverse this law of conquest; but the flames of Moscow, the fatal field of Borodino, and that awful trail of frost bleached bones, replied, "Thou fool." A James Munroe, *more safely*, boasted it, and "guessed" it to be a *manifest destiny*.

The position of a country with respect to the channels of commerce has also a great influence on its progress. Between two and three thousand years ago, when the north and west of Europe were uncivilized and unknown, southwestern Asia was the most opulent part of the world. There was a large trade carried on between the countries on the Mediterranean shores, Arabia and India—caravans were crossing the Arabic and Syrian deserts ceaselessly, loaded with the merchandise of the East. This was by no means insignificant, as we can understand from the wealth of Palestine and Phœnicia in the days of Solomon, when the ships of Tarshish brought "gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks"—when "the king made silver in

Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees as the Sycamore trees that are in the low plains in abundance," and also from the rich spoils brought home by the Roman conquerors long after. This commerce undoubtedly had a great effect in adding to the wealth of the well cultivated regions of the lower Euphrates, and not only that, but under its influence there sprang out of the very sands Baalbec and Palmyra, the relics of whose grandeur and magnificence the ravages of time have not yet obliterated. Such results has traffic accomplished. But civilization travelled westward and northward. The produce of Mediterranean countries found a better market with cheaper transport in those directions. The current of trade turned west. The cities of the desert crumbled into decay, leaving mouldering pillars and obelisks alone to testify to their ancient greatness. Babylon became a waste. "Her cities are a desolation, a dry land and a wilderness, a land wherein no one dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby." The trade between Europe and Asia is again reviving. Cape Colony has been of considerable importance during recent years, in consequence of its position, midway between these continents. But the Suez canal will, in all probability make Egypt the channel of this commerce, and thus raise her to something of her former greatness. How strikingly also do the Hebrew prophecies discriminate between the destinies of Egypt and Assyria! The latter, Babylon, "shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation." While of the former it is said "And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt, and will cause them to return to the land of Pathros, &c." Of course, it is evident to all, that commerce alone was not the only agent in effecting these changes, but yet it must be admitted to be one, and an important one. The fact of a country's being merely situated in the track of trade tells largely in its favour.

And now, to be more practical, in looking over the map of America, we cannot but see, that "our own land" is favoured by its geographical position. Being yet a comparatively new country, with advantages overshadowed by a prejudice in favour of its sister commonwealth, its position has not accomplished the results which it eventually must. Nova Scotia, the advanced post of the Dominion, stands out in the Atlantic, the natural wharf of America. The St. Lawrence conveniently runs up by the north side of this wharf, nearly into the centre of the continent. Bordering on it, are the most fertile States of the Union, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota as well as Ontario. Vessels loading on the Lakes, by taking advantage of the Canadian system of canals, can proceed directly to Europe without breaking bulk; which is undoubtedly more profitable than to pay the high tariffs of railways for 700 or 800 miles, and then export from some seaport city. This water course is the natural outlet of the yet undeveloped trade of the great west. We can already note progress, as for instance, the increase in American shipping passing through our canals. Our cunning neighbours are beginning to see it too; but not without ruffling the calm of their "calculating" temper, as exhibited in the late Presidential message to Congress. The Intercolonial railway is to be a great highway running right through the middle of our little peninsula. While the Bay Verte canal when constructed, as eventually it must, will open a channel of trade to the south of us. Therefore without taking into account the immense results which must arise from the geological formation of the country and from other causes, we must come to the conclusion, that we are highly favoured in geographical position.

Commerce has founded cities even in deserts. Then, may we not expect it to assist in building our towns,

especially when manufacturing industries begin to be developed as they ought, and will be—for this is to be the key-stone of Nova Scotia's greatness, though it cannot be touched under the present caption. One thing, however, which we require is a strong faith in the capabilities of our country—in its inconveniencies not to forget its advantages; in its frosts to find a tonic; in its snows a guardian; and in its position, prospective prosperity.

SENSATIONAL LITERATURE.

It has been well and truly said that the best index of a nation's life is her literature. If it is scanty and lifeless, the blood cannot be pulsing through the national vein with that healthy vigor, which is characteristic of perfect soundness. If it is impure, and panders to the baser desires and passions of man's nature, there must be seeds of corruption sown, which, unless quickly rooted up, will grow into the rank and noisome weeds of anarchy, lawlessness and lust. If it is pure and rich-toned, strong and vigorous, no surer evidence could be given of the nation's social and political prosperity. The one is the natural outgrowth of the other; a prosperous and enlightened people will produce a corresponding literature. The roll of history is replete with illustrations. The age of Pericles at Athens, the Augustan era at Rome, the Elizabethan era in our own "motherland," spring up at once to the mind, as more prominent examples of this truth. One of the best criterions then by which we can judge of our age is its literature. This nineteenth century has seen many new developments in this department. The various styles of literary productions, are almost innumerable. The review and the magazine are the growth of this century, or rather the full development of what Addison and Steele contemplated in issuing the *Spectator*; But there is one species of literature which is peculiarly the outgrowth of our age, and the exponent of one of its most prominent characteristics. The desire for excitement is everywhere prevalent. The eagerness with which war news is read, the clamor for exciting, thrilling stories, and the tendency to magnify anything occurring out of the ordinary line of daily life, are the results of this desire. Sensational writings are the proper and legitimate fruit of this social heat. This style of writing is of late increasing to an alarming extent. It is attracting those who might shine in other branches more honorable and more ennobling. Some of our best and most prominent *literateurs* are bringing all their knowledge of style, and beauty of expression, and throwing them into the balance with the sensational school.

Novels of this kind are abundant, and some of our best serials are admitting between their covers stories of the same class; in fact a tale is in these days considered dull if it is not to some degree of the "blood and thunder" stamp. The sensational novel is gaining a wide reputation, and being extensively read. Wilkie Collins and Miss Braddon are perhaps the most prominent sensational writers of our time. Supported by such a name as that of Wilkie Collins, works of this kind find their way to circles where the lower grades of fiction, and the inferior writers have no influence. In these novels mystery of plot, thrilling and marvellous details, with a sprinkling of supernatural and impossible events, combine to heat the imagination, and keep the mind in a state of abnormal excitement. Straining for effect, exaggeration in description, and a sustained feverishness of style and expression are the only recommendations that many of our so-called first class fictions possess. The characters are surrounded with

an air of mystery. They appear in unexpected places and under the most unaccountable circumstances. As if by the flourish of some magician's wand, they suddenly rise up before us and as suddenly disappear in gloom. Hair-breadth escapes, and romantic achievements are related which would do credit to the legendary heroes of the "Arabian Nights." To excite rather than to please seems to be the aim of the author. The mind is kept at a fever heat through all the varied details of narration, and is left parched and shrivelled when the story is finished.

The office of the novelist is to present to us the varied phases of human life, and leave us to read the lesson for ourselves. He interprets to us the voices of

"The forest where the din
Of iron branches sounds!
A mighty river roars between,
And whosoever looks therein,
Sees the heavens all black with sin,—
Sees not its depths nor bounds."

Dickens, while charming and delighting us with the creations of his genius, is at the same time the spokesman of those who groan under the yoke of social and legislative evil. We can discern the earnest purpose that runs throughout his writings, giving additional power to their literary and artistic beauty. The sensational novelist writes not so much to plead the cause of a certain class, or heap ridicule upon the conventionalities of society, as to satisfy the heated imaginations of the present day readers. There may be a purpose in his story but it is subordinated to the style, and lost sight of in the embellishments and exciting details of the plot. Instead of being reformers, our novelists often feed the fire of passion that burns in men's souls. We welcome every apostle of charity and virtue, every moral Iconoclast, but sensational writers cannot be classed among these, for the very style in which they write, increases and intensifies rather than diminishes passion. We do well to bewail the death of Dickens, for since his death fiction has fallen into the hands of literary charlatans,—men whose aim is not to elevate and purify, but to suit themselves to the baser tastes of the age and thereby make a fortune. Better that our literary men were compelled to "cultivate literature upon a little oatmeal," as Sidney Smith says he did when he was in Edinburgh, provided the true purposes of literature and art could be attained, than that they should live at their ease, and enjoy the fortunes made by pandering to the false tastes,—to the sensuality and debauchery of this age. There are a few noble exceptions, who are striving to realize the true ideal of literature. Prominent among these is George MacDonald, who is fast rising to eminence in Britain. He is our "star of hope" and under his guidance we look in faith, to see fiction brought back to its true standard.

There are certain ephemeral productions, which week after week serve up to their readers an account of the basest and grossest transactions of life. Sins and crimes which should for ever be kept silent, and away from the sight of those who are innocent, as well as those who are striving to obtain purity of heart and life, are here unblushingly portrayed to the public gaze. Art is here sacrilegiously wrested from its high position, of expressing all that is "true and beautiful and good" in the world, and made the handmaid of vice and crime. Actions and modes of life, which are generally included under the term "fast," are here delineated to please the sensuous epicure, and taint the youthful imagination. Suggestive of thoughts which require to be kept down by the exercise of a strong, unflinching will, the very sight of such pictures often overcomes the weak soul, and hurries it down the rapids of sin and crime, into the abyss of despair. Are we then to judge

of our age as one in which the standard of morality is low, of which social laxness and corruption, are the prominent characteristics? No, there never was an age in which there were nobler, and more determined struggles for truth and goodness; enough however that these papers exist, and are issued regularly from the press. There must be encouragement given to this kind of literature or else it would die out. Is it urged that these papers are issued with the design of lessening crime? It is like putting dirt into a muddy stream to make it clear, or like heaping fuel on a fire to put it out.

Let the endeavours of those who are trying to spread a pure literature among all classes be increased, and let our literary men and publishers use their combined efforts to drive the trashy, sensational weeklies, that issue from New York and other places out of our land.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Messrs. Editors,—Human comfort is the great and leading characteristic of the 19th century. To ease man from unnecessary labour and to make everything in the world subservient to his convenience is the aim of all philanthropists. Particularly is this seen in the education of youth. The most improved workmanship is employed for their comfort and winter is changed into summer by new methods of heating. Nor have we been behind in our improvements. One stove heats the Library, but while this is the case the students are cheered by the luxury of waiting in "the hall" sometimes for hours.

The fruits of the matchless accommodation provided for students was finely displayed on Tuesday the 8th inst. The day being a little in advance of the dog days of course, had its own peculiarities. At 8.45, A.M., lonely and alone in dropped solitary blue-noses. Few escaped the pleasing sensation of a frozen ear, while many bore unmistakable marks of winter sport on both. And the hall so warm, so inviting, gladly received them all.

For the benefit of some of our readers we may mention that the "hall" is a passage from the front door of the College leading back about thirty feet and nearly eight feet wide, and then branching off at right angles in both directions, about twenty feet each way, and boasting of no furniture except a coal box—the governors wisely excluding a fire lest youngsters might learn to smoke. Lest the air might become contaminated it is well ventilated by a passage from below, through which fresh air comes, having first done service for the Post Office and the Janitor, and catching in its ascent the mingled breaths of Freshmen, Sophs, Juniors, and Seniors, ascends in all its purity to the Dissecting Room.

To return: here our frost-bitten chums were thawing themselves with snow when, thanks to our kind German tutor, we were allowed to go into the Library. Of the heating apparatus of this room we have spoken before. 'Twas little better than the hall, and we verily believe more would have been frozen, only the exercise of reading German kept the blood in circulation.

Doubtless the Governors are not aware that we suffer so much. We can hardly believe that some of them with whom it is our pleasure and honor to be acquainted could sit by their fires while they knew, that we were in such a state.

Could nothing be done to get a room where students might enjoy life while free from class duty? If the Governors will only suggest to the students some plan of arriving at such a happy state of things, we are sure they will do all they can to help them. Let it be done at once, and they will have at least the sympathy of a frost-bitten Junior.

CALOR.

Dalhousie College, Jan. 17, 1871.

Dalhousie College Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., JAN. 19, 1871.

The "Gazette" is published by the students of Dalhousie College, on alternate Thursdays, during the collegiate year.

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The traveller who has gained the summit of some lofty elevation delights to stop and look back over the way along which he has journeyed. With eager gaze he traces the various stages of his progress, noting here a difficulty overcome, there an obstacle surmounted; reckoning the distance already accomplished and that which yet remains to be traversed; and thus, from a retrospect of the past, deriving hope and encouragement for the future. In a spirit somewhat similar, we would pause amid the hurry of study, take a brief glance at the work of the elapsed part of the term, and see what still lies before us.

Directing our attention in the first place to the Freshmen, we find that after listening to Cicero's eloquent attack upon the traitorous Cataline, they are now engaged in tracing the wanderings of Æneas and his fellow adventurers. Lucian's Dialogues serve as light reading for their leisure hours, while Roman history has rolled on to the period of the Samnite wars, and Rhetoric is giving instruction in the proper use of epithets. In Geometry the properties of circles occupy attention, and Algebra has dragged its slow length along as far as fractions.

The ambitious Sophs, spurning the acquaintances of last year, are taking lessons from Livy and Herodotus in history, while Horace and Homer wait patiently till their turn shall come to act the part of instructors. Our good old friend, Mr. Euclid, is, we believe, very soon to be dis-

carded, the charms of Messrs. Todhunter and Colenzo having proved superior. The members of this class have lately been introduced to a certain gentleman named Fownes, who, as they will probably discover ere parting company with him, possesses a very extensive stock of information, and is particularly well posted in the latest improvements in chemical nomenclature. By way, however, of being better able to cope with him, they are about to receive some lessons in logic from Hamilton & Co., which it is hoped may prove useful as well as entertaining.

Juniors have exchanged Horace for Terence, and the Medea for Prometheus Vincetus. Mr. Donaldson has kindly agreed to give them a course of lectures on the Greek Theatre while his friend Brown describes and illustrates the literature of the Romans. After vainly attempting to discover the origin of all things, the Ionic and Eleatic Philosophers have given place to those of the Alexandrine school, who bid fair to occupy a considerable amount of time with their metaphysical niceties. When these pass off the stage, a rich intellectual feast awaits in the Esthetics of Dr. Lyall. The persevering Fownes follows this class also, and incessantly claims a hearing, while Messrs Galbraith, Haughton and Potter are not a whit less importunate. The long continued enmity between Gael and Teuton displays itself in the rival demands for attention of Monsieur Pujol and Herr Otto, who do their best to convince their disciples of the truth of the old adage, that "there is no royal road to learning."

Turning to the Seniors we find Demosthenes enlisting their sympathies against the Macedonian usurper, and Tacitus demanding a perusal of his Annals. Plato and Juvenal stand by in readiness to take their places whenever an opportunity is afforded, while Cicero requests for his Tusculan Questions, and Thucydides for his History, a share of regard in private study. Max Muller's interesting Lectures on the Science of Language are about to be displaced by Clarke's Comparative Philology, and Brown's Greek Literature. Meanwhile, Messrs. Adam Smith, Mill and Wayland, having discoursed on Political Economy to their heart's content, are on the point of yielding to Stewart and Whewell. The panorama of History, bewildering in the dazzling gorgeousness of its pictures and the minuteness of its details, has moved on to the period of the Crusades. In the department of Modern Languages, Schiller describes the exploits of the Dragon-slayer, and Moliere holds up to ridicule the Misanthrope; Goethe and Scribe patiently awaiting a chance of being heard. Whatever spare time these may think fit to leave, is more than occupied by Lardner's Natural Philosophy supplemented by the exhaustive notes of Dr. Ross.

Thus the undergraduates in Arts are engaged; let us now see how the Medicals are prospering. The different branches of their curriculum are being successfully prosecuted. Professor Gordon has completed the minute Anatomy and development of the different tissues, and after devoting a considerable share of attention to Osteology and Syndesmology, or the study of the bones and lig-

aments, is now beginning the consideration of the muscles, blood-vessels and nerves. The Professor of Physiology, Dr. Sommers, having occupied the early part of the course with Histology, has taken up Physiology proper; and the study of the proximate principles being concluded, is now lecturing on Circulation and Respiration. In the department of *Materia Medica*, Dr. Woodill has left the consideration of the action of medicines, the various circumstances connected with their administration and kindred topics, for the discussion of the Antacids, Astringents and Tonics. We regret very much to learn that, owing to serious indisposition, he has been prevented from meeting with his class since vacation. We hope, however, that he will soon be able to resume his lectures.

The students in the class presided over by Drs. Slayter and Almon are rapidly acquiring a knowledge of the theoretical and practical parts of their subject. In Surgery, under the direction of Professor Farrell, the subjects of Nutrition, Hypertrophy and Inflammation, have been considered. The lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, Dr. Reid, is making good progress in the vast field of the study of Disease. Having dwelt extensively upon general Pathology, the predisposing and existing causes of Disease, Diagnosis and Prognosis, &c., he is now engaged with the discussion of diseases of the lungs—Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy and similar subjects. Chemistry finds an able expounder in Dr. Lawson, whose class-room is daily filled to overflowing with both Arts and Medical students.

We close our review with a word of advice to all. Revise daily. Do not neglect exercise. Be diligent, methodical, and cheerful in your work. Thus will prosperity crown your efforts, and present study be brought to a happy and successful conclusion.

ALEXANDER MAGNUS.

I purpose writing a history of Alexander the Great. Why should'nt I? That's the question. I wish to show the hero of many fights in his true character, from his birth till he had his last drunk. I shall reject as spurious many opinions held by historians concerning him, bringing out more clearly the leading characteristics of a man who could alternately weep and laugh, and which have generally been given only as anecdotes. Alexander the Great was the son of his father Philip—the cross Olympias was his mother. Little is known of his babyhood, except that he was fond of pap and molasses, was continually biting his nurse's fingers. His father early encouraged his fighting propensities by getting down on his knees and making Sandy hit him on the face and breast. Such training was not lost on so apt a pupil. His teachers soon found it difficult to manage him. His lessons were poorly prepared, although the old man spared no expense in getting good instructors, sending all the way to Greece for Aristotle. This famous pedagogue gave Sandy a good idea of Greek, and he showed his appreciation of the language by writing a poem. The metaphors are chaste and the allusions apt, yet it is marred by violations of grammar. I am of opinion that it is not read in Oxford. Study was not his hobby. No day of his life passed without some trick or other—his

chief amusements were knocking down apple stands, stealing peaches, betting on dog fights and pinching boys smaller than himself. He had the utmost contempt for marbles and base-ball. It is stated on the best authority that no one ever said he would die young.

A jockey once cheated the old king by selling him a horse with a black spot on his forehead for a fabulous price. The animal proved a most ungovernable brute. It was no use to attempt riding him, as he would kick at and jump upon all who came near him in a most outrageous manner. All the best horse trainers in the kingdom tried to manage him but failed. Philip angry at being fooled in every way ordered the nag to be put out on the common as unfit for use. Alexander hearing of his father's sentence, asked for the horse—"My son," said the old man, "I fear he will hurt you, and then my grey hairs will go down with sorrow to the grave." "Guv'n'r let me alone for that," replied the youth. So, standing on the fence till the horse passed by, he managed to mount him. Wildly pranced the horse kicking and biting, till all the women round about were screaming with fear lest Sandy should forcibly be brought to his last end. But he belabored the nag with his whip, till the horse became tired and trotted slowly, when the brave boy rode through the admiring crowd tossing his cap and repeating impromptu the well known lines which have made his name immortal—"I'll bet my money on a bob-tailed nag," &c. This horse he named Bucephalus, and ever after he would ride no other. So much did he love the nag, that when he (the horse) lost all his teeth and could not eat hay—he, himself, cut it for him, and insisted on boiling oats in the royal palace for his tried charger. Attending to his horse—thrashing darkies in Asia, and drinking took up most of his time. And when after long service the white favorite died, for days Sandy did nothing but blubber in a most juvenile fashion, showing by his refusal to eat for four hours, how dearly he loved him. He ordered a monument to be erected to his memory and a city built in his honor at the expense of others, and the city he named Bucephalus.

On one occasion the old man, on going from home for a few days, told Alexander to be a good boy and not break dishes and chairs. But no sooner had the boss gone than the obedient boy asked a lot of other bad boys to a party, at which they played blind man's buff, pussy in the corner, and button, button, &c. They ate all the jam, and drank Philip's winter supply of liquor. This was the first time Sandy was known to tumble under the table, and ever afterwards he showed a keen appreciation of Brand xxx and such drinks.

Yet he was brave. Seeing a number of men fighting at Chaeronea he could not look idly on, but rushed into the midst of the brawlers, and by the aid of Bucephalus knocked down as many as five of them. "Brave boy," exclaimed his dad, "your father's farm will soon be too small for you." When about 18 years old he showed a disposition to quarrel with his father on many occasions. One memorable instance is related—Philip being about to travel on the continent of Asia wished to leave some company with his wife, and so invited a lady friend to remain with her while he was away. On that same evening there was a party, where like our modern parties there was dancing, liquor, and officers carrying swords. One "captain" seeing that Sandy could dance the "fandango" better than he could, out of spite hinted that the young man was *fast*. In a rage our hero dashed a cup of ginger ale at him, spoiling all his clothes and creating general confusion. Philip angry at this breach of etiquette rushed upon his son, but alas! *a la modern* "hossifers," he got entangled

in his sword gear and fell flat on his face. "Bully for you, old man," said Sandy, and left the room. Mounting Bucephalus he left home for parts unknown, but not liking to work, he soon was compelled to return, when the old man forgave him for his rashness. But he did not long survive to counsel his boy. Having drunk too much blueberry wine he expired, leaving to his son the kingdom and a small volume of precepts—we select a few: "Be virtuous and you will be happy." "Out of sight out of mind." "The weaker goes to the wall." "Silver is better than iron in capturing cities." Thus at twenty Alexander the Great, Esquire, became king and commenced to act his part as a young man of the period. Niebuhr I. ■

GLEANINGS.

—The Argentine Provinces have a Normal school to which they send pupils in proportion to their representatives in Congress. The National Government furnishes each pupil with books and other material for study, and twenty dollars in gold per month for his expenses while studying. The course is one of six years, and insures a fine training. Each pupil must be furnished with a certificate from his parents or guardian, testifying to his intention of making teaching his profession, one from his pastor testifying to his character, and one from his physician testifying to his health. He also pledges himself to teach for six years in the schools assigned to him by Government.—*College Courant*.

—THE STRASBURG LIBRARY.—The re-construction of the Strasburg Library is making rapid progress. Besides the united action of the academies and booksellers of all Germany, there are single gifts pouring in of no small value, prompted occasionally by sad enough motives. Thus the well-known scholiast, Landfermann of Coblenz, has offered his own entire library, the result of many years' careful collection, chiefly rich in philology and history, and containing not a few rare works no longer to be had in trade, as a contribution towards the new Strasburg Library. He had hoped, he adds, to leave these books some day to his son (Johannes Landfermann, a most promising young historian), that he might use them after him. But he had gone down in the trenches before Metz, and the professor did not know what better purpose these books could serve now than the one he has under the circumstances destined them for.—*Montreal Witness*.

—The *Astronomische Nachrichten* says Professor Struve, of Pultowa, has been for years watching the rings of Saturn; and the inner one of the three rings, an obscure, partly transparent mass of what appeared to be vapor, has been seen to approach the body of the planet, and to widen its distance from the other rings, which seemed to be fluid in character, or perhaps made up of myriads of small bodies, moving together like the streams of meteors which supply the periodic showers. But during several months past, this inner ring has fallen more rapidly, and finally the attraction of Saturn entirely overcame the centrifugal force, and it closed upon the body of the planet, forming a belt, which was gradually diffused over its surface, so that there is now no trace whatever of the ring left. Is this to be the fate also of the other rings? or will they ultimately gather into satellites as has more commonly been supposed?—*Montreal Witness*.

—The telescope for the Naval Observatory at Washington for which \$50,000 was appropriated at the last session of Congress, has been contracted for by an Eastern firm. Four years will be required to complete it. It is to have an object glass of 26-inch aperture.

PERSONALS.

—J. M. ALLEN who spent two sessions at Dalhousie in '64 and '65, has just returned from Edinburgh University, where he has been studying for five years in the Arts and Theological Faculties.

ISAAC BAIRD and D. K. CAMPBELL (better known among his fellow students as "Demosthenes") are prosecuting their studies in the Theological Department of Princeton University.

—J. G. A. CREIGHTON, B. A., of '68, is engaged in surveying on the Intercolonial Line of Railway.

ROBINSON COX is teaching the Preparatory Department of Guysboro' Academy. He will probably return to Dalhousie next winter to study medicine.

—JOHN CAMPBELL, whose Gaelic songs used to produce such merriment in "the hall," is engaged in business at Lake Ainslie, C. B.

—GEO. P. MURRAY is buying, selling and getting gain at N. E. Margaree, C. B.

—D. F. CREELMAN, '73, has been prevented by ill-health from rejoining his class since the Christmas vacation. He is now at his home in Eastville, Upper Stewiacke.

—MARRIAGE.—In Trinity Church, Digby, on the 25th Dec., by the Rev. John Ambrose, M. A., John J. Cameron, Esq., B. A., Principal of the Digby Academy, to Susannah, relict of the late Captain Wright, of Digby. Cameron is the first of our Graduates who has entered into married life, and we feel assured that all the *alumni* of Dalhousie will join us in wishing himself and his wife all possible happiness.

DALLUSIENSIA.

—BOTANY.—We are pleased to learn that Dr. Lawson intends giving a course of lectures on Botany during the remainder of the term. Although originally intended for Medical Students, the Seniors and the Juniors of the Arts course have been kindly invited to attend. The lectures will be delivered in the Chemistry Class Room on Monday evenings, at 7½ o'clock. We sincerely hope that all will take advantage of the opportunity thus generously afforded of becoming acquainted with a subject so interesting and important. Dr. Lawson's fame as a Botanist is by no means confined to Nova Scotia, and we trust that it will be still more widely extended by the success which we anticipate for the new class.

—FOOTBALL.—At half past three o'clock, on Saturday afternoon the picked twenty-two's of the *Caledonia* and the *Dalhousie* Football Clubs assembled on the South Common to finish the drawn game of Dec. 3rd, 1870. Mr. A. G. Russell was chosen umpire for both clubs. After a very spirited contest of about half an hour, Mr. G. A. Abbinett, of *Dalhousie* kicked the ball through the *Caledonia* goals. Although the clubs continued playing till 5¼ o'clock, no other game was secured by either side, so that at the expiration of the allotted time the score stood thus:

Dalhousie.....1.
Caledonia.....0.

The playing of the City Club was excellent—a fact which is proved by our being able to carry the ball through our opponent's goal only once in an hour and forty-five minutes. The day was calm, but the ground was in a wretched condition, from a long-continued thaw, which rather *damped* the pleasure of the game. We congratulate our boys on their success, and the City boys on the spirited manner in which they strove to be victorious.

COLLEGE NEWS.

— UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA.—The old and once celebrated University of Bologna numbered at one time 4,000 students and 800 professors and its medical school especially was for a long time the most celebrated in Europe. It was there the first human body was dissected and the first anatomical preparation made. The museum is still one of the most complete and extensive in the world, both in human and comparative anatomy. The library comprises some 15,000 volumes, and among them some very valuable manuscripts. It is a curious fact, in connection with this University, that several of the most important chairs—those of History, Natural Philosophy, Literature, and even Anatomy, have at different times, been held by ladies. A wax figure of the lady anatomist was pointed out to me in the museum, bending over the table with a scalpel in hand, as natural as life, and surrounded on either hand by her own preparations. Another young lady, the daughter of one of the Professors, lectured on history, and is said to have been so beautiful that she was obliged to lecture with a curtain before her face in order that the attention of the students might not be distracted from the subject of her discourse. The university is still honorably maintained, there being still 400 students in attendance.—*Cor. Chicago Medical Examiner.*

— OXFORD.—The Viceroy of Egypt has presented to the University of Oxford, where his son, Prince Hassan, is now a student, a complete collection of Oriental literature, printed at Boulak, comprising seventy distinct works, in one hundred and forty volumes.—At Queen's College, an old custom was observed on Dec. 26th, when a boar's head, decked with bays, rosemary and holly, was borne into the hall to the accompaniment of the old ballad of which an abridged version is given in "Coningsby" during the Christmas frolics at St. Genevieve. The custom is said to have originated in the noble exploit of a certain scholar who choked a wild boar with a volume of Aristotle.

— ATHENS, The President of the University at Athens, Greece, is elected annually.

— PRINCETON UNIVERSITY has conferred degrees on five thousand and ninety-nine persons, 2,771 of whom are living. The Theological Seminary has 122 Students, of whom 15 are Canadians. The Dominion is outnumbered by only three of the States, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Five of the fifteen are Dalhousie Students; Three of these are Bachelors, and the other two have each attended a number of sessions as Occasionals. The University during the past year has received \$175,000.

— SAN JOSE. The corner-stone of the University of the Pacific was laid a short time since at San Jose.

— SALT LAKE CITY. The Methodists are about to open a Seminary for young ladies and gentlemen, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

— THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN has purchased the Library of History and Political Economy, of the late Professor Rau, of Heidelberg. The price of the books is paid for the University by Mr. Philo Parsons, a citizen of Michigan. An exchange remarks that, having this new supply of raw material, the Students will doubtless make great progress.

— VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY has 520 matriculates, a greater number than any other college in the Southern States.

— GREAT UNIVERSITY.—It has been proposed by Senator Harlan to establish a free University in the District of Columbia. The University is to contain a Normal School and Arts, Medical, Legal and Polytechnic Colleges. The Government is merely to provide the grounds in Washington.

— BROWN.—The class of 1822, at Brown University, had, at graduation, thirty men; of these, twenty are still alive, and have met once in every five years since graduation.

— WESLEYAN FEMALE COLLEGE, Cincinnati, founded in 1842, was the first in the United States which was chartered with collegiate powers for women.—The Alumni Association are making efforts to raise \$10,000, with which to endow a chair in their college, the incumbent of which is always to be selected from their number.

— UNIVERSITY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.—The law school has been organized, with the Hon. Henry E. Davis, LL.D., as President.

— DELAWARE COLLEGE, which suspended some twelve or fifteen years ago, was re-opened last September.

— WILSON FEMALE COLLEGE, Chambersburg, Pa., was formally opened on the 13th of October, 1870.

— ODD FELLOWS UNIVERSITY, Bryant, Texas, has 165 students.

— UNION COLLEGE.—Prof. Staley, of Union College, is preparing for the press a new mathematical work on Engineering Statics, Strength and Stability of Matter. He is compiling it from the notes of the late Prof. Gillespie.

— We have received business letters from J. W. Smith, Rev. P. M. Morrison, H. Black, and Chebucto Stamp Association.

— We have added to our exchange list the *College Courant* (Yale), *Yale Courant*, *Trinity Tablet*, *Torch Light*, *Yale Literary Magazine*, *Virginia University Magazine*, *The Targum*, *Index Niagarensis*, *The Iowa Classic*.

— Subscribers will please remember that payment of subscriptions should be in advance.

— We have again been disappointed by the contributor of *The World's Progress*.

— RUTGERS COLLEGE, New Brunswick, N. J., has 163 students at present, the largest number ever on the college rolls since its foundation.

— It is estimated that the relative number of College Students in the U. S., is one to every 2,500 inhabitants.

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