

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

ORA ET LABORA.

VOL. XV.

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NO. 7.

## SOME OF OUR FOIBLES.

The foibles of mankind are so numerous and so varied, that one would soon weary of the task of describing them. There are a number of minor foibles which beset mankind, and though all must be more or less conscious of them, still as yet they have hardly ever been made the subject of literary remark. The readiness of mankind to take upon trust the merits of illustrious deceased authors, is a weakness which we all must have noticed. The fame and supposed excellence of these writers are so overpowering, that the thousands who are unacquainted with their works never think of doubting, and thus it is possible for an author to have ceased altogether to be read, and yet to be very generally praised. Take, for example, Dante, a poet whom everybody allows to be most admirable, while very few are practically conversant with his writings. Let some one who knows Dante—nay, let some one who does not know him—make an allusion to him in company, every individual will put on a look of intelligence and sympathetic appreciation, as if he had every verse of the *Divina Comedia* by heart, and had been accustomed all his life to enjoy it either in the original, or through the medium of Mr. Carey. Nearly the same can be said of Milton, whom every body (writer included) buys, dips into, tires over, and then lays aside and praises forever. How few of even the well-educated are able to appreciate these poets, but as no one likes to be supposed deficient in this kind of taste, which looks like the characteristic of an exalted mind, the few are as ready, yea even readier, to bestow commendation, than those who are really able to appreciate, simply in order that their ignorance and

inferiority of understanding and feeling may not be detested. The very want of readers prevents the real merits of an author being ascertained. An author obtains a certain degree of reputation; in time, taste changes and he ceases to be read; still mankind, afraid that the fault lies with themselves, praise on; and thus a book may, to all proper intents and purposes be as dead as its author, without being a whit less celebrated than ever. It would appear, in fact, that ceasing to be read, gives the best assurance of immortality; an author is never safe till then. The taking upon trust the authority of great men has kept back somewhat the search after truth, as instanced in regarding such and such a theory to be correct, just because Newton proposed and believed in it.

The dread of being thought inferior in learning and taste to one's neighbours, may be frequently observed, when a Latin or Greek quotation is introduced into conversation. Not many dare to appear non-intelligent on such occasions. The quotation may be far from being correct or may bear contrary sense, or be otherwise inapplicable; but no one would question it. It is related that Sheridan clenched an argument in the House of Commons by a professed quotation from a Greek author, which, though a mere piece of jargon with the sound of Greek, was received with the greatest respect, assented to in particular terms by one honourable member, and only discovered to be what it was by the witty author himself. In truth, very few are able to catch the meaning of a few words or sentences spoken in a learned language. But then all must appear as apt as these few. And thus there is sometimes a wonderfully general appearance of learning, at the expense of a little candour.

In polite assemblages the case of the poor blind countess who paid her compliments to the coal-scuttle instead of the infant of the lady she was visiting, is repeated in many various forms. Where many are speaking and when there is an unusual bustle and noise in the room, innumerable remarks fall to the ground even between persons sitting near to each other, but never is anyone wanting in a gracious assent to what is or seems to be said. Sometimes the person speaking is troubled on such an occasion with a "sir?" or "madam?" which not unfrequently fails to produce a complete enunciation of the sentence. But as a second request of this kind would be troublesome iteration, the hearing party must hear at all hazards, and, by some phrase, gesture or play of features, coming as near as he can guess to the nature of the remark, set the matter at rest. To guess at the meaning in these exigencies, requires some tact. Some blundering people will reply with a pleased expression to what was intended to bring forth their indignation or to a question with the "indeed," proper to a statement of fact. Those who can read facts and interpret the language of the eyes are less apt to go wrong. There are some—the regular diners-out—who can throw assent, denial, doubt, surprise and satisfaction, together with a hybrid of shrug and bow, all into one. The ladies have a very pretty way of getting out of such scrapes by a peculiar simper, which being applied to all remarks whatever, heard or unheard, whether referring to love or villany, to accidents costing hundreds of lives, or schemes for restoring the lost innocence of mankind, passes without challenge, and really saves a great deal of trouble to all parties.

Till an extraordinary thing has been done people at large believe it to be impossible, and after someone has done it, wonder it was not done before. When weather is fine, people speak of it as if they believed it would never again be foul: let but a sunny shower fall, they immediately surmise that it is broken, and will not again for a long time be good. Shops and theatres are apt to be most frequented when it is reported of them that they are crowded with excess of custom. Walk into an auction-room, people

seem to get excited and buy things which in their calm moments they don't know what they bought them for. The high prices seem to attract customers and prompt them to bid. Individuals value the articles because they see others value them, and a contagious briskness pervades the assembly. Mankind are desirous of novelty. How often do we see a decorative object of real elegance covered up and disgraced by something paltry, but new! How often do we find ourselves neglecting the treasured wisdom of ages, and the most refined modern literature, to grub amongst the very dregs of a newspaper!

In making a bargain for something of uncertain value, who is not conscious of often offering a sum which, if less had been asked, he would have thought exorbitant? Mankind are not as yet sufficiently rational or sufficiently wedded to the spirit of justice, to give an effectual resistance to any strongly urged claim, however ill founded. In argumentative conversation, men often take most unreasonable and deceitful courses. You may be quite overpowered by the general strength of the opposite side of the question, when, let but the most trifling error be made in point of fact by your adversary, you may, by a judicious use of that slip redeem your cause. Overlooking everything else you instantly seize upon the error, which of course you speak of in round terms as *errors*, and, triumphantly asking what faith is to be placed in such a statement, you have nothing to do but to look around for a decision in your favour.

Every one must have remarked the easy success of any kind of an evasive answer. Be the intention of the question as pointed, and its terms as precise as may be, if the questioned party can only say something, no matter how vague, or apart from the purpose, the questioner is seldom able, at least for a time, to bring his artillery to bear upon the subject. The universal horror of iteration deters him. With equal weakness, we find people accounting for their conduct by reasons which are anything but reasons. The mere sound of a *because* is enough for them. Such are a few of the minor foibles of mankind. To describe such foibles is a task

which I would not undertake, except in the hope of correcting them, by bringing them under notice, and there is little occasion for any of us, to set himself up in judgment of the errors or ridicule of the weaknesses of his brethren.

H. B. B.

### WRITING.

Few things are of more importance to any one than knowing what to read and how to write well. These two, however, hang very closely together. By reading, our style of writing is formed so that in order to obtain a fine style in writing we should cultivate what natural excellence we may possess by reading with the utmost care the best authors—in all languages which we can master. But one should be careful in so improving his style not to fashion it too much after that of any one individual; for however fine a writer his pattern may be, in imitating him we copy his faults with his excellences, and as a general rule the imitator falls far short of his model. But in perfecting our style by this means, we should read most of the best authors, and by comparing one with another, learn what are "examples to imitate" and what "patterns to deter." However, a good style is not to be obtained without much practice, and a vast amount of careful composition is indeed required before, like Dr. Johnson, we may be able to comprise so much carelessness with so much accuracy as to be able to write page after page and send it, without revision, through the printer's hand to the public. Writing teaches us to speak correctly and fluently, for it causes our thoughts to arise more readily, allowing us when one fancy is begotten to utter it at once and form room for another, hence preventing confusion by having many ideas in our head at the same time and not being able to express them.

By writing we obtain graceful diction in converse, and who does not know with how much greater pleasure one is listened to who always expresses himself elegantly than one who utters his thoughts, however grand they may be, or be they ever so fascinating, in

clumsy jerks. It is of especial importance for everyone who writes to interest, and this is nearly always the aim in writing, to express themselves concisely as possible, as lest the reader is awaiting the complete narration of the tale and so is under a sense of constraint, we become tiresome to him. But often, on the other hand, a veteran writer of the requisite skill will increase the reader's interest in his subject by holding the conclusion in abeyance and the reader in suspense.

Another abomination from which we should never cease trying to free our style, is the use of slang words; some such words indeed are no doubt very expressive, but this should not sanction our using them, for if we try sufficiently we will find other phrases in the English language, which do not come under the designation of slang, to express our meaning equally as well.

Indeed, reading, writing, and speaking are most intimately connected, for seldom do you find one who has not read much to be an elegant conversationalist or one who has not read and written much a ready debater.

And now comes the most practical part of what we have to say. How comes it since the practice of composition comprises so many advantages, that so many students throw away their opportunities of realising some of the benefits which result from being able to write well? How comes it when so many are trying to become debaters of acumen and ready repartee by disserting on subjects before their compeers weekly that they do not increase their skill as they certainly should, by writing for their college paper? Is it that Greek and Mathematics are of such great importance to us, a tithe of whom will not live by teaching Greek and Mathematics, that we who have not the advantage of learning English literature, can afford to throw away on their account the chances of learning to express ourselves forcibly and intelligently, upon being able to do which will depend so much of our future success? We do not know. But this is sure that none of us are so perfect that we should not seek to become able to say from experience that "reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man."

## AMBITION.

To one inclined to study man—philosophically or unphilosophically—the principle of action we call ambition must be a source of wonder. We are astonished at its tendency, even when partially controlled, to bias sound judgment and its unlimited expansion under freedom. Some times, many in most cases we are inclined to think, ambition does not in reality bias the judgment so much as to force us to act in defiance of reason's conclusions. For it demands but a minimum of thought to show us clearly enough that the majority of our ambitions are hopeless. A simple calculation of the chances for and against distinction in this or that direction is rather dismaying, and Nature has with kindly foresight, given to most of us an antidote in the shape of vanity. Each of us conceives that with regard to the rest of the world, he is a kind of Pharisee—that he is not as other men are. And that is very true, but unfortunately we do not go on with the reasoning, and ask ourselves whether the difference between ourselves and the world, is that part of nature that will lead on to distinction.

If we should put the question, we would most probably discover in the course of the investigation, that the difference is too infinitesimal to build a fair name upon; indeed, we might often find that the difference is negative, and that some one else has a greater likelihood of being *somebody*, than ourselves. But such an investigation would never do; should we betake ourselves to that kind of self-examination, what a race of hypochondriacs and blues-afflicted individuals would arise! But if by chance, you exclaim, "we discover that we are no better than our neighbors," what in the world remains for us to do with ourselves? Our vanity is cured, our ambition checked, and there is the delightful prospect of rolling along for the remainder of our lives in the groove fate has assigned. "How are we to remedy the blues that will come down upon us like a cloud?" My friend, we say, we do not treat for your case; you should not have made your unfortunate discovery; your best plan will be to revive some of your lost vanity. Take our word for it, there is no defence against

the blues like a right good stock of conceit. True, your vanity will get its toes trodden on and its sides pinched by the vanities of others; but what can you expect in this world? You surely are not planning a life of perfect contentment and ease: that would be anticipating heaven. But be careful of your ambition; see that you have some object in view before you give it a loose rein. Vanity and ambition are by no means the same thing, and as we said before, we are inclined to think the former a counterpoise to the latter. Ambition is an active principle; but vanity rests content with a consciousness of latent power.

It does seem hard, very hard in Nature, to have implanted in so many minds this peace-destroying ambition. How many of us ever met on a solid foundation, the structures that loom so imposingly in the air? Given a score or so of young men at college, full of ambition, how many reach distinction? "But," you say, "it is not as if this one or that one were marked out for greatness and his future career known beforehand: all is uncertainty, and why may not I be the lucky one? Setting aside your Pharaical doctrine, I have an equal chance with the rest; mathematically speaking, my chances for distinction (as concerns this score of men) are one in twenty." Well, friend, is it worth the risk? Remember you are not likely to make a name till you are well on in years, and the intervening time will be none of the happiest. If you have not great genius (and it is not at all likely that you have) you can make at the best but a local and temporary renown, that will cost you a whole life time of hard work. However this sort of prating is useless, and to tell you the truth, we are arguing against ourselves. A great number of us would say with Cassius, complaining of Cæsar,

"Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world  
Like a Colossus: and we petty men  
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about  
To find ourselves dishonorable graves."

We cannot bear with complacency that we should be beaten in the race for distinction, and yet—someone must win, and the trouble is that we do not acknowledge the winner until it is too late.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Dalhousie Gazette:

Considerable discussion has been raised this winter in the columns of the *Gazette* concerning the extra work assigned to the English Literature class. The result of this discussion has been to increase the already grievous burdens, and instead of the amount of extra work being decreased it has grown greater. I would respectfully ask the Professor of English Literature, on behalf of the students seeking a first or second class, if he has taken into account the other work allotted to the same students. Besides the ordinary course, which most or all of us find sufficiently hard, there is in Classics an amount of extra work equal to the ordinary course, while in English the amount is much greater than that done in class. The ordinary work consists of, The Prologue and Knight's tale, a few of Bacon's essays, three of Shakspeare's plays, three books of Milton's *Paradise Lost*; the extra of, Nonne Preste's tale of Chaucer, one book Spencer's *Fairy Queen*, the greater number of Bacon's Essays, three Shakspearian plays, nine books of *Paradise Lost*. Now, granted that students day by day make the best possible use of their time, what portion of it can they devote to performing this amount of labour? The hours at their disposal are from two o'clock P. M. till twelve, in which space of ten hours, lessons for the next day must be prepared and time for food and recreation deducted. As far as I can learn the time spent in preparing the lessons in classics is from four to six hours daily, then if only one hour be allotted to taking food and recreation, at least a half of the available time is spent; in the remaining half the mathematical lesson must be prepared and also that in English; but beside these the ambitious student must prepare an equal amount of classics and a greater amount of English. But it may be asked is this continued throughout the course? Is there no time allowed for reviews? The rush of work instead of decreasing rather increases, and students' minds are so constituted (I suppose) that they need no reviews. They must catch what few notes they can from the lectures of

the Professor, and what they do not catch must remember. Is this treating students fairly? Can they reasonably be expected to do all this work? In order to gain a first or second class the time that should be taken for recreation or sleep is employed in studying and if a first or second class is desired, it is obtained at the risk of health. But even if this enormous amount of work is gone over is it likely to be done in such a way as to prove a lasting benefit, or is it not in nine cases out of ten a mere cram? We do not count ourselves to be natural geniuses, nor are we of that class that "think all men mortal but ourselves." That we are mortal we willingly confess and ask to be treated as such. Hoping that these few words may be favourably received and obtain for us a much desired lightening of labour, I remain, yours respectfully,  
BLIT.

To the Editors of the Gazette:

I want to air a little grievance I have. I attend the English Class regularly and derive much profit therefrom. But of late my pleasure has been spoiled by the lack of seating accommodation. Recently there has been an irruption of foreigners who monopolize the best seats, and leave those who are regular students of the class to find chairs where best they may. Would the college revenues permit the buying of say a half dozen of chairs for these new-comers?

GRUMBLER.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—The Postal arrangements of this College are in a decidedly inefficient state. Letters brought to the College are dumped upon a window ledge in a room where at certain hours some seventy students congregate. Little wonder then that they go astray. Can't something be done whereby students can get their letters in a more satisfactory way than at present?

Yours, &c.,

POST.

'Why men drink is what staggers us,' says a woman's journal. What men drink is what staggers them.

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 9, 1883.

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AS long ago as the session of '69-70 a communication in reference to the establishment of a Law School in connection with Dalhousie appeared in the columns of the GAZETTE. Last year "Student" again drew attention to the matter. The Legislature of this Province in the session of 1881 passed "An Act to provide for the organization of a Law Faculty in connection with Dalhousie College and for other purposes." This declares that the Governors shall have power "out of the revenues of the College to provide for the maintenance and support of such faculty." But hitherto nothing has been done, as the "revenues" have been inadequate for any such purpose. It may not be out of place for us to give some of the reasons which would seem to indicate that the establishment of such a faculty is necessary.

The faculty of Arts in this College is now fairly equipped and will be in a still better position next session. But the friends of Dalhousie must not rest here. It should not be enough that in respect of the Arts training Dalhousie

gives we are fully abreast of any Canadian College. We must keep pace with the times. A "B.A." does not go for so much as in the days when it was considered the sign of a thorough knowledge of Arts, Physic, Theology and the Law. The tendency of the age is practical. As proof of this we have but to instance the many technical schools which have been established of late years. Theology is no longer taught in the perfunctory way which was formerly in vogue. In this age the theologian must, in addition to his Arts training, take a thorough course in his special subject which will last for three or four years. The would-be physician must spend years of study in a Medical School. But for the study of the Law no facilities are offered. It is not even necessary for the law-student to have experienced the liberalizing influence of a training in Arts. What wonder then that, having been thrust into an office, the student, after his four years of scribbling, comes forth at best but a case-monger. The general principles of the science have long since been lost in a swarm of petty details. A Law School is calculated to change all this. By dissociating the subject from the "filthy lucre" part of it, the student would gain a nobler idea of his profession.

In this direction a fine field is afforded the well-wishers of this College. To make Dalhousie the power in the land that McGill and Queens and similar institutions are it is necessary to enlarge her sphere. Suppose we do offer the best facilities for an Arts course in the Lower Provinces, we can draw but a limited number of students—the other colleges will still have their faithful few. Were we to establish a Law School we should have no rivals.

There is one drawback to success in this matter, and that is the want of funds. It is only fair to assume, however, that the recent benefactions have stirred up some measure of enthusiasm among the supporters of Dalhousie. Nor would the expense after all be so very great. Without doubt lecturers could be found in the city who for merely nominal salaries would conduct the course. At any rate we hope that all the legislation upon the subject and the talk we daily hear shall not be allowed to bear no fruit.

WE hear complaints of want of room in the literature class; while this state of things is highly complimentary to the Professor it does not work quite so well for his hearers. We have been informed that students have been seen sitting even on the same chair. Now this is a condition of affairs from which our best, our noblest feelings revolt. We have seen this system of two men in one chair tried frequently and can confidently predict its utter failure. Men as a rule are too big to get much comfort from a board six inches wide and a friend's elbow burrowing like a mole into one's fifth rib. We have not heard from the ladies yet; they probably bear their ills in silence; yet two ladies find it none the less difficult to sit on one seat. It's been tried. Now the editorial chair is, as a rule, very chary about offering suggestions where the sex is concerned; but feeling an unwonted boldness founded on long experience, it would venture to propose a remedy for the existing ills. It has been found (by actual experiment) that a lady and a gentleman can accommodate themselves with the utmost facility (and felicity) on one chair. This plan we would humbly recommend the Professor of English Literature to pursue, thereby economizing room and securing the comfort and happiness of all concerned.

WE have learned with deep regret that the Science faculty has been abolished. We are bound to assume that this action was not taken without due deliberation, but none the less does it seem to us unfortunate. Neither at this nor at any other time can Dalhousie afford to make retrograde movements. We are told that few students availed themselves of the course. Is this the way to draw more? It seems to us that if the faculty was languishing for want of funds the proper course was to make an effort and put it on a sure foundation. The Science course was abolished before it was known that the College had come in for some good luck. The need of a good Scientific School is just as urgent as ever, and looking at the matter in the light of recent endowments we can have good reason to hope that the action of the Senate will be reconsidered.

SHALL the "Carmina Dalhousiana" be suffered to fall into oblivion? What is the matter with the students this year? Have they no lungs? There is no dearth of artistic yelling and fiendish howling, but it would seem that for "divine" harmony our students have no aptitude. Time was when it was a treat to be permitted to stand in the halls and hear the melody produced by the scores of singers. But all is changed. The era of music is gone. That of violent horse-play has succeeded; and who shall say that the change is a good one? In these degenerate days the student who would lift his voice and troll out "Landlord, &c.," would be looked upon as a monstrosity. We sigh for the halcyon past, and look with foreboding to that future when the superabundant energies of students are to be expended on less innocent pastimes.

ONE feature of the GAZETTE this year has been the amount of correspondence which has appeared in its columns. We allow our correspondents great license since we recognize the fact that the GAZETTE is the students' paper. The old rule, however, in reference to correspondence is binding in this case too: "We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents." We believe however that the authors of these communications are sincere in their criticisms. Hence we feel assured that no harm is done; and we know that if there are real grievances they will be remedied by the proper authorities.

## A HOLIDAY ON THE HUMBER RIVER.

I HAD been three months at Bay of Islands on the western shore of Newfoundland before I got a chance to go up the Humber River as far as Deer Lake. I had heard of dark, deep pools in the river where trout, weighing three or four pounds were caught, of large stags being seen by the lumbermen coming down to the margin of the river to drink, and of numerous flocks of wild ducks and geese that had made their homes in the coves and creeks of the lake. It was a beautiful morning in the early fall, when my friend the captain and myself prepared for a trip up the river in company with three skilled navigators or "polers."

Our baskets were well filled with "grub," the guns and fishing rods were stowed away, when we discover that our sail has been taken away. The captain was equal to the occasion, and suggested a blanket, one was procured, fastened to a small mast, and put on board.

My friend was very careful of himself, and was provided with wraps, a silk umbrella, and a water-proof coat. He wore a broad-rimmed hat, enveloped in a musquito net, and had on a pair of double-barrelled green spectacles.

The Sound looked like a sheet of glass. The homes of the fishermen and lumbermen scattered along both sides, the Court House perched on the top of a height, below it in Bucky Cove the Episcopal Church, parsonage and school-house, further down the shore the Presbyterian Church and manse, and, across the water, the Roman Catholic Chapel—the stores, wharves, skiffs and schooners, and in the back-ground a range of hills, the sides of which are covered with fir, mountain ash and spruce trees, brightened by the scarlet leaves of the maple, made a charming scene. We were about thirty miles from the entrance of the Bay.

Blomidon mountain with its bald crown and patches of snow in the clefts far up its sides, gleaming in the morning sunshine, the islands at the mouth of the Bay, and Frenchman's Heart—all were distinctly seen through the clear September air. Quietly and lazily our oars dipped in the still water, we row along the shore watching the reflection of the houses and trees in the clear water, until we round a point of land and enter the Humber River. Then we have to bend to our oars, the tide is strong and ere we reach Deer Lake it will be nightfall and our hands will be sore and our backs will ache. Looking up the river, we notice that we are in a valley or deep gorge, very steep and high hills on each side. We stop to chat with two men who are in a boat watching a salmon net. They have their nets moored off several points, but have to watch them closely as the seals take the salmon as soon as they are meshed. The catch of salmon is some seasons good; one family—but that a large one—claims exclusive right to fish the river.

We have to cross and recross the river taking advantage of the eddies. A very dangerous place is pointed out named "The Devil's Dancing Pool." Logs sucked under do not come to the surface, and there is a story told that some years ago a boat containing six men was drawn under and never seen afterwards. We row through dark places where the trees overhang the stream. Kingfishers dart before us, a seal occasionally

pops up his head, looks scared and vanishes. We passed by a marble quarry. The marble is of a pink shade and beautifully veined. There is also black marble in the vicinity. We pole past Shell Bird Island, Seal Island and Stag Island and about noon reach Hard Scramble. We land, the lunch baskets are unpacked by the captain, a fire built, the tablecloth spread on a huge boulder, and cold chicken, ham, and strawberry tarts and cream washed down by several fragrant cups of tea are enjoyed.

We light our pipes, tell stories, and enjoy the view. We are encircled by hills, not far away a waterfall shimmers in the sun like silver, the river rushes and tumbles over the boulders, the white gulls, wheel and poise overhead, a gentle breeze keeps off the little black flies, and we feel loath to recommence our journey.

The fragments are slowly gathered up, the boat shoved off, two of the number take a pole each, two more the paddles, while the one best acquainted with the shoals and eddies, steers with a long oar.

We do not stop until Big Rapids are reached, here we land some splendid trout, and drink a cup of tea. We have not time to enjoy a glorious sunset as a dangerous part of the river has to be poled over, and the camp to be reached before nine o'clock if possible.

At dark we found ourselves in Deer Lake. The sight of a fire at the camp some distance ahead cheered us. We fired off several guns just before we landed; three rough looking lumbermen came down from the camp with birch torches in their hands. We recognized them as old friends. They were glad to see us, and treated us kindly.

Our boat was hauled up, and wraps, guns and rods, carried to the camp. We entered a narrow path cut through the forest, and reached a camp made of birch-bark and spruce sticks, with one side open, before which an immense fire blazed.

The kettle is put on, a few slices of pork fried, and we enjoy our supper. Fresh "spruce feathers" are put in the camp—more logs placed on the fire—pipes are smoked, yarns told about crack shots made by some of the company at deer, others on wild geese—how one shot four deer, without moving from a rock with his repeating rifle, on the hill across the lake. One after the other drop off asleep. A felt silence is all around, the stars seem very near us, and we fall asleep, dreaming of venison stakes, roast wild goose, and cranberry sauce.

RAMBLER.

### OUR EXCHANGES.

A NEW STAR has arisen in the college firmament. Albert College, not to be behind the times, has started a paper and has called it "*Astrum Alberti*." We wish it a prosperous future.

THE *College Courier* is strong in its editorial department. Three pages of the issue before us are occupied by "Couriosities."

THE class of '83 at Acadia College recently held a banquet; among the toasts was, of course, Alma Mater. We are told that the following sentiment was "applauded to the echo": "We will be true to Alma Mater—Consolidation may take care of itself." This is interesting news as showing unmistakably the spirit that animates Acadia men. Consolidationists may learn a lesson here, and devote their energies to quarters from which more success is likely to be obtained.

RECEIVED: *Varsity* and *Acadia Athenaeum*.

### ABOUT THE COLLEGE.

WE understand that some five students intend taking the honor course in English Literature.

THE attention of the authorities is directed to the communication in reference to seats in the English class-room.

AT a recent meeting of Governors of the College, a handsome appropriation was made for the Library; and it is understood that in future the Library fees are to be devoted to the same object.

A CURRENT RUMOR is to the effect that instead of two tutors in Classics and one in Mathematics we are to have an additional Professor in Classics. Probably the balance of the endowment will be devoted to tutorships in Mathematics and Chemistry.

PROFESSOR MACGREGOR lectured in St. John on Monday evening, Feb. 5th, on the "Birth and Growth of Plants." This is what the *St. John Telegraph* of Feb. 6, says of it:

"Professor MacGregor had a splendid audience Monday evening, who greatly enjoyed his very brilliant lecture. Being of a scientific, and not of a merely literary or sentimental character, it put a con-

siderable strain on the attention of the audience. The lecture was much admired and heartily applauded. The peroration was very happy. St. John is becoming more and more indebted to Halifax for intellectual illumination."

SODALES.—Parliament assembled Jan. 26th; after preliminaries, Gammel moved the second reading of the bill for the Confederation of the Maritime Provinces. In the delivery of his able speech he was loudly and frequently applauded by his supporters. Murray brought in an amendment which was seconded by Cahan in a vigorous though somewhat lengthy address. E. McDonald spoke for the bill, while E. McKay, and A. W. Macrae supported the amendment. McKay made one of the best speeches of the evening. During the debate, the excitement was high and the Speaker had often to exercise his authority. Points of order were discussed with an interest almost equal to that taken in the question itself. The knowledge that some of the members displayed in parliamentary law was surprising. After a protracted but lively argument the question was put and the bill passed by a majority of two.

Parliament again assembled on the evening of February 2nd. The Government had brought in a bill prohibiting the liquor-trade. But, alas! the Government which had been vigorously supported in its other good measures was this time doomed to be "left." After a most interesting discussion the vote was declared a tie. This left the casting vote to the Speaker who gave the reasons for the faith which was in him and cast his vote with the Opposition. The overthrow of the Government gave rise to hearty cheering. We were sorry to see such a small attendance. Surely one evening a week can be spared from books. We trust that students will take our advice and attend the meetings regularly.

THERE seems to be a feeling of dissatisfaction among those most interested in our college prayer-meeting inasmuch as the majority of the students manifest so little anxiety concerning its success. It is true that the regulations adopted by Senates of other Provincial Colleges, by which students are obliged to attend divine services daily, are not enforced without partially

precluding the attainment of the very object for which they were enacted. Since the influences, thus brought to bear upon students have but little effect, while they are chafing under a forced restraint from which they rush to the other extreme as soon as an opportunity is afforded. But as Dalhousie has adopted a different course, by which attendance is optional, we find that our *one* weekly prayer-meeting is not worthily sustained. It appears to us that the cause lies partially in the fact that in consequence of a short session and a lengthened curriculum, students who desire to make high class-standings feel that they cannot afford to spend the time, and partially in the fact that those who are more immediately connected with the management of the prayer-meeting do not make it sufficiently interesting to the majority of the students. With regard to the extent of reading, prescribed by the "powers that be," we shall say nothing at present. However, we might advise those who are paying undue attention to their studies to the neglect of nobler attainments, that their highest ambition should not be to pass successful examinations by a continual cram, but rather to possess characters more fully developed by the moral as well as mental culture which the college prayer-meeting seeks to afford; yet, as individual students are placed under different circumstances, subjected to varied influences and actuated by various motives, we feel that no advice can be given which shall be applicable to us all except this—*act conscientiously* in this matter.

Now, although these influences that we have mentioned operate against the efficiency of the prayer-meeting, they affect the debating clubs as well.

Yet as a matter of fact Sodales has not been more flourishing since the commencement of the session than it is now, because, when one method of conducting the society became monotonous and failed to interest, another was tried with better results. Let the friends of the prayer-meeting do likewise. Let our Saturday evening meetings be as pleasant, as interesting and as profitable and they will be as well attended. If one style of conducting it does not yield the desired results, let us endeavour to infuse more

novelty and enthusiasm into the meeting by trying other methods. Above all, let us not lament that others do not attend, but let us be assured that if we make our weekly prayer-meeting as interesting as it may be made, the majority of the students will attend in spite of all opposing influences. C. H. C.

### COLLEGE NEWS.

THE State University of Ohio opens for the winter session with 350 students.

GIRTON COLLEGE, the girls' College at Cambridge University, is about to be enlarged.

IN our last issue we gave a few particulars of the "rackets" Aberdeen students engage in. This week we have to chronicle a riot in which the medical students of Montreal engaged. It appears that a student was to be tried before the Police Magistrate on a charge of body-snatching. Determined to see fair play, his companions to the number of over a hundred, armed with the bones of skeletons, marched to the Court House. Here a terrible hubbub ensued. The police cleared the court room but not without difficulty, the students using their "bones" with great effect. The students now got their blood up and forming in a body some 400 strong, headed by the tricolor, marched back to the Court House. This is the description one of the Montreal papers gives of the scene:

They halted in a body opposite the office of *Le Monde* and cheered it many more than three times if their promiscuous yelling could be called cheers. Turning down St. Gabriel street in a solid mass, still headed by the flag, with sticks and bones that appeared to be human, and handkerchiefs of every color under the sun, still shouting and yelling like demons they at length came to a halt in front of the portico of the Court House. Here they gathered in a body, and one of their number, whose hat was of a decidedly brigandish character, was hoisted up on top of one of the stone pillars of the steps, from which he attempted to address them. He managed to get as far as "Fellow students, we have been grossly insulted," when here the yells and shouts of his wilder hearers interrupted him. Meanwhile a police alarm had been sounded, and a body of from forty to fifty sturdy policemen had gathered at the Central Station. On the appearance of the students they had been called out and all with ready batons were marched down to the front of the building. The bearer of the flag was evidently somewhat of a military cast of mind, and he accordingly executed a flank movement and the whole mass marched quickly past in front of the column of policemen into Jacques Cartier Square. The men were marched after them and halted directly in the centre of the square. Three times the students marched around the men still yelling and raising their weapons. The order was then given to the men to raid the crowd. The result was a scene of the utmost confusion. The majority of the policemen rushed on the students, striking in some cases and seizing bones and men. The majority of the medics had gathered just on the edge of the Champ de Mars and the first rush of the policemen had sent a goodly number scampering over the Square. Foremost among these was the standard bearer who certainly is deserving of credit for the manner in which he saved the colors. The whole body of police was by this time hard at work seizing every stick they could lay their hands on and clearing the square in a most thorough manner. A series of interesting little foot races took place between the

police and students on the Champ de Mars, but as the square was thickly covered with snow the policemen were not able to show as much speed as their more agile opponents. The standard bearer had meanwhile hoisted his flag again to the breeze on Craig street opposite the drill shed, but those who gathered round its folds were not disposed to continue their fun, and they accordingly marched peacefully off up German street.

All told thirteen were arrested, but, the Police Magistrate having accepted an apology, they were subsequently dismissed.

THE Alumni of Acadia College have just published their twenty-second annual report. It is a neat pamphlet of some 88 pages, and contains the "addresses in memoriam relating to the life and labors of the late Rev. J. M. Cramp, D.D., delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Society, 1882." Much information is given concerning the graduates of the College.

MR. SANFORD FLEMING, C.E., has been re-elected Chancellor of Queen's University. Mr. Fleming has contributed \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund.

JOHN BRIGHT will deliver his rectorial address to the students of Glasgow University, on March 12th, and on the following evening address a public meeting in that city.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE, in Ireland, is the largest ecclesiastical college in the world. It has now more than 500 students, candidates for the priesthood.—*Ex.*

### DALLUSIENSIA.

*We wish our contemporaries to note that this column is not intended for the public, but belongs exclusively to the students at present attending College, who alone are expected to understand its contents.*

ALWAYS cultivate the *old woman*.

THE philosopher sometimes stoops his herculean frame and takes to ringing bells.

THE going-to-take-all-round-honors Soph. was badly plucked in a Poplar Grove, a few evenings ago.

JUDGING from their essays, Mark Twain is regarded as the classical author by many in the Eng. Lit. Class.

THE government made a great error in their estimates. They intended to go to Iolanthe on Friday, but did not.

WE were rejoiced to see our friend the Artist in the hall the other day. He "had not time to call on the Profs."

HAVE respect for the opinions of your elders. A first year man asks a Junior to help him choose a valentine.

TWO of our *elderly* students when seeing their young ladies home, always have a fight as to which couple shall walk *behind* the other. Why is this thus?

DURING recess at twelve and one, the soft heads may be heard crooning:—

"Turn, oh turn in this direction,  
Shed, oh shed a gentle smile," &c.

THE Glee Club have had a meeting in the Reading Room. This accounts for the rumor that a slaughter-house had been started below, and that the melodious process of pig-sticking was going on.

THE Soph. who intends to take honor courses in Classics, Mathematics, and English, will not take one in Philosophy, because "he does not believe that complexity is a necessary concomitant of philosophical compilations."

IT is a disgrace to Dalhousie College that the ladies have to bring their own brushes, combs, hair-pins, &c., in their pockets. We understand that their waiting room is in need of a new poker, as the present one is nearly worn to the handle in performing the base duties of a curling iron. The senate is requested to supply the following articles for that interesting place, viz:— $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. prs. curling irons, 12 gross hair-pins, 4 lbs. toilet powder,  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. puffs, 2 gals. Cologne water, and other things of a like necessary nature, as far as means will permit. "It is a shame that the ladies are not better treated in this college."

### PERSONALS.

H. G. CREELMAN, B.A., '81, is teaching at Middle Stewiacke.

ROBSON, a Freshman, of '78-'79, has accepted a clerkship in the Union Bank.

A. COSTLEY, B.A., '80, is in the employ of the Marine & Fisheries Department.

A. W. HERDMAN, B.A., '79, is studying for B.D. at Pine Hill.

J. T. WYLIE, winner of Professor's Scholarship in '78, is teaching out West.

J. MILLEN ROBINSON, B.A., '73, is completing his course in Theology, at the Theological Hall in this city.

H. S. CREIGHTON, B.A., '80, has gone into the Commission Business, and may be found in the office of F. D. Corbett & Co.

E. L. NEWCOMB, M.A., '81, L.L.B., has entered into a legal partnership with J. P. Chipman, of Kentville. We wish the new firm success.

T. MALCOLM, M.D., who was a student here a few years ago, and who settled in Newfoundland, has recently joined the noble army of Benedicts.

A. P. SEETON, Esq., founder of the DALHOUSIE GAZETTE, has been married, and is residing in Chicago, where he is engaged in editing an Episcopal paper.

D. SUTHERLAND who took classes here some years ago, and completed his theological course at Kings, was recently ordained at St. Luke's Cathedral in this city, and has charge of a Parish in Cape Breton.

H. McD. HENRY, Q. C., Vice-President of the Alumni Society of the College, has been re-elected to the same office in connection with the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

WE congratulate our late fellow student Mr. W. Kempton, on his appointment to a salaried office in connection with Acadia College. It is rather hard on the Acadia students that they should have been all passed over by their Governors, and the office given to a Dalhousie man. But, we suppose, Mr. K. owes his appointment to the fact of his having distinguished himself here in the competition for Munro Bursaries. Truly, he who wishes to obtain success in life should enter Dalhousie College.

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### CLIPPINGS.

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"I'LL make you dance!" cried an irate mother, pursuing her erring son, slipper in hand.—"Then," remarked the juvenile, "we shall have a bawl."

'If Jones undertakes to pull my ears,' said a loud-mouthed fellow on a street corner, 'he will have his hands full.' The crowd looked at the fellow's ears and smiled.

'WHAT is the greatest charge on record?' asked the professor of history. And the absent-minded student replied: 'Seventeen dollars for hack hire for self and girl for two hours.'

SAID the night watchman, when about dusk he was invited to drink a cup of coffee, 'No, thank you. Coffee keeps me awake all night.' And then he saw his blunder, and looked very much embarrassed and tried to explain it. But it was no use.

SOME of our Mathematical men can perhaps solve the following problem:

A moveable platform is drawn with uniform velocity round a circular path of given diameter. Upon it a walrus, whose weight is  $W$ , pirouettes with constant angular velocity  $w$ , on his left hind leg, and at the same time blinks with his right and left eye alternately, beginning with the right, at intervals which are in a given Harmonical Progression. At the centre of the circle a given hippopotamus pirouettes with uniform velocity  $uw$ , in the opposite direction on his right hind leg, and blinks with his eyes alternately, beginning with the left, at intervals which are in a given

Arithmetical Progression. Supposing that they begin to blink simultaneously, investigate the probability of each of them seeing the other with his left eye alone at a given time.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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W. C. Calder, \$2; Hon. Justice James, Rev. Allan Simpson, A. Kirkpatrick, Esq., Miss Saunders, Miss Calkin, Miss Newcombe, Alexander Campbell, H. S. Adams, D. I. Morrison, G. G. Campbell—\$1 each.

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