

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

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## A VISION.

I DREAMED, and in my dreams a brooklet purred  
And rippled silvery laughter o'er its bed,  
Dancing in utter wantonness of mirth,  
And casting back athwart the golden sky  
The sunbeams as in sportive anger. Anon  
It wandered 'mid the flowery meads, and careless  
Kissed the sighing rushes as it passed.  
Then all was joy and peace, as yet no thought  
Of Why? or Wherefore? dimmed its sunlit face—  
And mere existence was its happiness.

Then came a change. A river grown, with growth  
Was born a deeper murmur in its waves,  
A murmur as it seemed, not all of peace,  
But mingled with a restlessness and longing.  
Swirling 'mid rocky glens o'erhung with pine,  
Breaking and chafing against the curbing stones  
That strove in vain to check its pent up stream,  
The river foamed and wrestled in its might,  
With agony of purpose leaping, dashed  
In waves of protest 'gainst the guiding banks,  
Warring with Fate itself, to reach the sea.

"Oh for the ocean! There to meet and match  
With other streams: to throw my vehemence  
Of waters 'gainst the waves—the mastering current,  
To bid the lesser turn and blend with mine,  
To stir and change the silent sleeping depths!"  
Rolling its volume with an angrier roar,  
The river, panting, heaving, downward swept  
And saw at last the confines of the sea.  
Checked for a moment on the brink, it paused  
And gathered in its force, then, headlong leaped  
Against the advancing surges of the tide,  
And for a moment bore them back and triumphed:  
But only for a moment. While I gazed  
The unequal contest ended, and the river,  
Broken, borne back, a moment vainly rallied,  
But with weaker struggles, and at last it sank  
Amid the depths of ocean and was lost.

Sorrewing I looked,  
For thus, methought, youth's strong, impetuous stream  
Chafes at the bonds that make him youthful still,  
And longs to mingle in the sea of life,  
Trusting forsooth, poor youth, to storm the world,  
To change and guide the current of its thought.  
And ever thus the end. A hasty plunge,—  
A struggle more or less,—obscurity.  
But the Tide of Life rolls ever calmly on!

SINUS.

## STAGE-COACHING IN N. B.

THE man who has never travelled in one of our old-fashioned break-down stage coaches, has had an experience comparatively free from adventure. He has perhaps never been called upon to put into exercise many of the nobler qualities of his nature, such as endurance, patience, meekness, a disregard for life, and so on. All these, and others too, he certainly requires who travels often in the way of which I speak; at least we found it so on a journey which we had occasion to make not long ago.

The line we travelled by was B's lightning express,—seven miles an hour, or sometimes perhaps nearer seven hours a mile,—two horses and a driver. It was an interesting occasion for us, and we sat in our friend's house, waiting for the coach, with feelings somewhat akin to those of one who is about to go to sea for the first time. The thought of travelling for half the night, the liability of a break-down—a familiar term on that line—the possibility of a runaway, and many other disagreeable things which might occur, prevented us from looking forward to our drive with any great anticipation of pleasure. At last we were relieved from our disagreeable suspense by the sound of wheels. We went out to look about us, and though not of a very observant disposition on ordinary occasions, could not help noticing that the coach was there. Yes it was there,—and such a coach—to give a correct idea of its construction would baffle the descriptive powers of a Mark Twain. Its body looked more like a ferry-boat than anything we can think of just now. Its wheels were so concave that we have wondered ever since how it managed to stand. We believe that

this interesting conveyance, when it was first made, had been furnished with a few bolts with nuts on them, to keep certain important irons in their places; but these had long since been safely deposited in the mud of the road, and the more modern contrivance of rope-ends substituted in their place. The springs were tied on the axles; the pole was tied to the roller; the dash-board was tied to the body; in fact the parts that were not tied are not worth mentioning. I verily believe they would have preferred to tie the wheels on, were it not for the fact that their motion would not permit, but compelled them to use the nuts instead. The horses, too, were, if possible, even more interesting in appearance than the waggon. One especially attracted my attention. When he stopped, he stood about three feet ahead of his less spirited companion, and I afterwards learned that he always travelled this much in advance. He had a careless, don't-care sort of appearance, held one ear slightly forward and permitted the other to fall listlessly back, let his lower lip hang carelessly down, disclosing a very good set of ivory, kept his off eye partly closed, as if pretending not to see anything in particular, when all the while he was taking the weight of every passenger who mounted the high conveyance to which he was hitched. We could see character strongly marked in that horse's face, but we were not sufficiently skilled, at that time, in reading equine character, to tell whether the marks indicated a good temperament or a vicious disposition. We afterwards learned that he was not the most amiable animal of his kind. The driver also deserves a passing remark. He was the most important part of the whole arrangement, for without him the turnout would have been useless; and he was got up in all respects to correspond with his team and carriage. The most fastidious eye would have been satisfied with the fitness of things in this respect. He was, we should say, between six and seven feet in height when standing; this we have been told on good authority he never did when he could possibly avoid it. He had eyes like peas in size and a mouth like a codfish, ears like a cabbage leaf and a nose like a side-hill plough.

He always carried a short clay pipe in the right side of his mouth, and from the opening thus formed between his lips there flowed a perennial stream of tobacco spit which was finally absorbed by the garments upon which it fell. We succeeded in climbing into this conveyance without much difficulty, and arranged a seat for ourself as best we could. We had a trunk against which to rest our back, and a piece of sheep-skin with the wool all worn off for a cushion. The bottom of our seat had several protuberances which did not at all tend to administer to our comfort. Besides us there were two other passengers—both men—making in all four.

After we had got ourselves properly arranged the driver re-adjusted his clay-pipe, drew up the reins and gave the signal to start, and away we went at quite a lively pace. At the first starting out the road was smooth, and as the night was warm, and the motion of the old coach seemed to be pretty easy, our spirits gradually rose, and we began to think that after all we might have a tolerably pleasant drive; but "*Heu fortuna, ut semper gaudes illudere rebus humanis!*" we were destined to bitter disappointment. We had gone but a short distance when something transpired, and we may as well relate just here what it was. That horse with the strongly marked character in his countenance had one striking peculiarity. When he travelled he performed a rotary motion with his tail, which increased proportionally with his speed. But that was not all, he insisted on having this interesting organ entirely free from all extraneous obstructions, and if perchance the rein should get entangled with the said appendage it not only dropped *instanter*, but also acted as a powerful incentive to various kinds of demonstrations. That was exactly what happened at this part of our voyage, and off we shot like the wind, our spirited equine meanwhile playing upon the dash-board with his heels in a manner more to be admired by one looking on from a distance than by an immediate observer situated in the vicinity of these engines of destruction. We, not being accustomed to this sort of thing, felt a little frightened; we were going at a terrible speed, and apart from the possibility of

having the top storey of our head knocked off by a fragment of the already shaky dasher, there was a strong probability of being transformed into a projectile and landed somewhere in space. We looked around us to observe the nature of the ditches and to see if there was any soft place on which to alight, but the darkness together with the speed at which we were going, made everything indistinct. Fortunately, the road at this part was level and continued so for many miles ahead of us. That which surprised us most, however, in what seemed to us to be a dangerous moment, was the perfect presence of mind exhibited by our driver, who did not even forget to draw his pipe, but sat holding the reins firmly, and apparently enjoying our rapid drive, casually observing that at this rate we would soon cover our journey. We concluded that he must be a man of superior courage and fit for any crisis. As there seemed to be no signs that this would end, however, he roused up a little and with a few vigorous jerks disengaged the rein, and, the cause of the disturbance being removed, our cantankerous animal soon quieted down and we were once more travelling at the ordinary time-table rate.

We had now got far away from any settlement, and were in the heart of a wilderness. Occasionally we passed a cleared field and a solitary house through whose small and dirty windows there glimmered a pale light. That was all we could see, and we were thankful for it. The night was calm, and the only sound that greeted our ears was the chorus of frogs or the shrill cry of the screech-owl. A large part of our way lay through the forest, and the tall, dark trees, sometimes nearly meeting over our heads, excluded from view all the heavens except a narrow strip which, thickly studded with stars, was the only cheerful sight upon which we could gaze. After our first adventure and its successful issue, we had charged the driver to keep a tight rein and a stiff upper lip, as we had no desire to see the performance encored. But he, like all men of a philosophical turn, was absent-minded, and in the midst of our reflections we were again thrown into a state of alarm by a runaway. Our fears were heigh-

tened by the announcement that we were nearing a hilly part of the road, crossed in many parts by brooks which were spanned by bridges of not the most substantial nature. This time, too, our driver seemed to lose all control of the team, and they dashed madly along over hubs and holes, regardless of the destiny of all behind them. Phæthon in his father's chariot of the sun did not make such wild driving as did our teamster on this occasion. But the climax of adventure was about to be capped. We were nearing the top of a hill at the base of whose steep decline was a rickety bridge, fifteen or twenty feet in height. We had got not much more than a few yards down this dangerous descent, when, *horrible dictu!* one end of the cross-bar of our pole fell, and, there being nothing now to guide the coach, we took a zigzag course resembling the path of chain lightning in the heavens. To all appearances our time had come, and we believe nothing but a kind Providence saved us, for in crossing the bridge we grazed its edge several times, and no sooner had we reached the other side than the waggon took a lurch into the ditch, and we were brought up all standing—some of us on our heads.

This kind of travelling had become monotonous to us and we concluded to start off on foot whilst the old coach was being tied up again, in the hope of reaching the halfway house and getting a better conveyance for the remainder of the journey. Before we had succeeded in this end, however, we were overtaken and were compelled with much fear and trembling, to trust ourselves once more on board. Our driver was, after all, an affable sort of a character and had a kind heart, and noticing that we were a little nervous he attempted to divert our minds and while away the time by telling stories. He recounted many a wild adventure enacted on this same road. He told us of horses at present on the line who had become famous for the dreadful disasters which they had caused. He related frightful tales of fearful runaways in which horses had been killed and carriages broken into a thousand fragments. He told how men had had their eyes put out, their teeth lodged in their stomachs, and their countenances

disfigured for life by fragments of dash-boards knocked into their faces by the blows of horses' heels, and many other equally wild and extravagant yarns, which neither tended to allay our nervousness nor excite our fears.

For the remainder of the journey no accident occurred, and save an amusing disquisition that took place between the driver and an equally learned passenger, on the probable origin of the universe, nothing of interest transpired till we reached the railway station. We had not long to wait for the train, and, I tell you, it was a welcome sight to see its bright head-light nearing the platform, and a joyful sound to hear its puff and clatter as it rattled past us. Seated comfortably we were not long in falling asleep, to dream of wrecked coaches, railway accidents, broken-down bridges, and such things as an excited brain is wont to imagine when given a loose rein in sleep.

C.

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### CITY vs. COUNTRY.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

Letters have been appearing in our city newspapers, recently, from the pens of able writers, respecting one and another question in connection with colleges. Among those I noticed one in which the writer strove earnestly to set forth the superior advantages of colleges situated in the country as compared with those having their *campus* in the city. He described, no doubt with great truth, the picturesqueness of some rural districts, the reopening of the fruit trees in the months of May and June, the green fields and all the other charming attributes of the country in the "joyous summer time." No doubt all these would be enjoyed to the fullest extent by the "gowns," if the fates permitted them to attend classes during this happy season. But it seems never to have occurred to the writer that during the summer months—at least in Dalhousie, to which the writer chiefly alludes—the halls of learning are closed, the students scattered up and down the length of the Province; some indeed beyond the limits of the Province; but all alike dispersed, from the cigar-smoking and cane-swinging Senior to the most

verdant Freshman. So far as the aforesaid Senior was concerned, consequently, the apple blossoms would "waste their sweetness on the desert air," and the Freshman would derive no enjoyment from the contemplation of fields green as himself.

Turn we now to the winter season. To city men, at least, I should imagine country college-life would be simply unendurable. As compared with the city the country has no attractions whatever in winter for collegians. In the city, not to mention the advantages of a wider social intercourse, we have our Public Libraries, Museums, Skating Rinks, Gymnasiums, the Courts of Law, the House of Assembly, the Academy of Music, evening lectures, a greater variety of churches, sacred and secular concerts, and so forth. We shall be told that in the country there are magnificent hills for coasting and tobogganing without the interference of Bobby and his truncheon, with long stretches of roads, and possibly no lack of interesting companions for sleigh-driving. Very tempting no doubt, all this, but we can have it all in the city. For coasting and tobogganing it is not necessary to go very far to get beyond Bobby's jurisdiction, and as to sleigh-driving, we recall a certain Saturday last month, the gathering on the Parade, Casey's spanking double teams, each four-in-hand, and are comforted.

Perhaps the writer alluded to is of opinion that the pleasures of the city are calculated not merely to draw off the attention of the student from study, but also to have an injurious moral effect upon minds fresh from country districts, and coming in contact with city dissipation, possibly for the first time. Now this is a point I almost hesitate to discuss. But, my good friend, if you really think young men from the country are generally so innocent and unsophisticated, as compared with young men in cities, I should really begin to imagine you to be one of the freshest of Freshmen yourself.

In nine cases out of ten at the very lowest estimate, young men come to college to study for professions which necessitate an after residence in a city. For what end is education sought or valued? Surely for the advantage which mental

training gives in the business of life; for the superior facilities which it affords in dealing with the minds of other men; for purposes of teaching, convincing, persuading, possibly of ruling other men. No young man who goes through his four years of college, hopes or expects to hide his talents in a napkin; in other words, to bury himself in the country. He looks forward to the time when he will have to measure himself with other men in the forum or in the halls of legislation, at all events somewhere where he will have to encounter opposition among the masses of mankind, and not in the solitude of green fields, however charming. The sooner, therefore, the young man gains some acquaintance with the world in which he is afterward to play his part, the better for himself and his chances of success—at least so I should think.

The practice of older countries in this regard is not favorable to the isolation theory. Oxford and Cambridge Universities are not, to be sure, in London, but they are not situated in the country; very far from that, they are surrounded by large populations, while within the present century supplementary colleges to supply certain deficiencies of Oxford and Cambridge, have been founded at the great cities of Manchester and Leeds. The great Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow are in the heart of those cities. London University is in London; Paris University is in Paris. Not content with Leyden, Holland has founded a college in Amsterdam; the great Universities of Germany, Berlin and Liepzig are not in the country parts, while at the very side, we may say, of Harvard, our neighbours have established a college in Boston.

Abstractly speaking, no doubt a residence in the country ought to be more healthful than a residence in a city, but this, after all, depends entirely upon circumstances. Whatever the cause may be, it is found that generally the death-rate is as high in the country districts as in most towns. Practically, whether owing to the sea-breezes or the situation of the city on a hill-side, there is no doubt that in the particular instance now under consideration, Halifax is fully as healthful as any part of the Province.

I should like to say something respecting the

comparative merits of town and country colleges, with reference to companionship, the formation of friendships, and so forth, but I fear, Messrs. Editors, I am encroaching on your space. After all, is not much that is said on this part of the subject, sentimental and unreal? Young men soon find out the companions that are congenial or otherwise, whether in town or country, and the number of really intimate friends that a young man makes at college, is comparatively small. Considering the short time they are together and the purposes for which they attend college, very numerous or very close intimacies indeed are hardly desirable.

At the risk of being tedious, I might add a word or two upon the advantages which city life affords to a young student in the way of society. Let not my friends in the country, of whom I am happy to say I have many, be offended; I do not mean to insinuate that town society is better than country society, but merely that there is more of it. Where there might be one social gathering in the country during a winter, there would be a dozen in the city, and consequently, so much the more opportunity for seeing and cultivating refinement of manners. And is not this a part, and an essential part, of what is called a liberal education? I have always understood it to be such, and with this closing remark I have to thank you for your indulgence.

J. ALBERT BELL.

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THE *Era* says that "Cornell's Library ranks fourth in college libraries. Harvard leads with 200,000; Yale, 100,000; Dartmouth, 50,000; Cornell, 40,000.

THE foot-ball men of Princeton, Yale and Harvard propose to arrange, if possible, an all United States game with an all Canada team, in the spring.

LATEST Fresh. renderings of the *Æneid*:—"Volitus in caput," etc., "Revolving three times upon his head." "Auribus erectis," etc., "Standing erect upon his ears, he listened intently."—*Ec.*

MICHIGAN University numbers 1,515 students. Thirty-five States are represented besides England, Canada, Prussia, Japan and the Bermudas.

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 12, 1881.

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IT takes a long time for any needed reforms in State Government to take place. The majority of the people want the same system as their fathers had, and think that as the country has prospered under one form of government, it would be dangerous to change it. Only sober necessity compels the majority of the voters to assent to any innovation; then it is with many misgivings that they support the new order of things.

At the time of Confederation many wished the Union to be legislative instead of federal; but the state of public feeling then rendered such a scheme impossible. Now, after a number of years experience, those who desire to do away with our Local Legislatures and centre all power at Ottawa, are very few, yet we believe that the constitution of our Assemblies could be much improved.

The finances of this Province are not in a healthy condition, and it is not likely that our revenue will ever bear a larger proportion to necessary expenditure than at present, and it is only allowing some department of the public service to suffer, that the income and expenditure can be made to balance.

Various remedies have been proposed to better this undesirable state of affairs. A few years

ago the favourite scheme was Maritime Union. Speeches were made in its favour, resolutions approving of such a federation were passed by the Assemblies, and authorized delegates of the Governments discussed the terms, but it all ended in nothing. There seemed to be a lukewarmness about this union, and the saving after all would not be so very much. Difficulties, such as selecting a capital, a uniform school-law to satisfy all parties, persecuted themselves, and as no one of influence seemed to have the subject at heart, the matter dropped. The truth seemed to be that New Brunswick had managed her finances well and had a good credit account, while her crown lands were an increasing source of revenue, but the best part of our crown lands had been given to subsidize railways. Prince Edward Island drove an exceedingly good bargain with the Dominion when she entered the Union, but she does not seem to have learned the art of keeping the treasury full as well as New Brunswick, and so the people of New Brunswick thought they would be better as they were. Maritime Union is now hardly a question of "practical politics."

That we have too many legislators, will hardly be denied, when it is considered that Canada has no less than 660 representatives—one for every 6,000 people, or one for every 750 voters. This does not compare favourably with other countries. We are not ardent admirers of the system of Government in the United States, but in respect of the number of legislators it would be well to take a leaf out of their book. In Nova Scotia there is one representative (including both Local and Dominion) for every 4,000 people; in the State of New York there is one for every 25,000. Or looking at it in another way, the State of New York, with 12 times our population and 25 times our wealth, is governed by 195 representatives, while this Province requires 87.

That the Legislative Council should be abolished is the opinion of every one except the majority of the fossilized gentlemen who compose that body. This would effect a saving of at least \$15,000 a year. We see no reason now, since the Municipal Councils manage the internal affairs of the counties so efficiently, why the

## CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR GAZETTE:

By the last mail, I received your first two numbers for the current year. It has struck me that a letter giving you some information about the Universities in Australia might not prove uninteresting to your readers. In Australia proper there are three, named from the cities in which they are respectively situated, viz.:—Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. There is also one in New Zealand, known as *Otago University*. As those several institutions have been established and are conducted upon the same principles, an account of Melbourne University, with which I am most familiar, will serve to convey a general idea of them all.

In the first place, it is the property of the state, and is the only university in the colony of Victoria, which has a population greater than that of the three Maritime Provinces. It was established about thirty years ago. The university buildings, erected at a time when money was plenty and labour scarce, cost the colony £100,000 sterling. They are situated in a magnificent park, containing one hundred acres, in the suburbs of the City of Melbourne. This park has been laid out at great expense, and abounds in shady walks, summer-houses, lawns, lakes, fountains and statues. The university buildings, of granite and freestone, and three storeys in height, form three sides of a square, enclosing a spacious quadrangle. A new wing, of white Tasmanian granite, is in course of building, which is to be named the *Wilson Hall*, in honour of Sir Samuel Wilson, a wealthy colonist, who has contributed £30,000 towards its erection. The ground floor is to be fitted up as a convocation hall, the second as a laboratory, and the third as an observatory. The University Library contains 10,000 volumes. The Melbourne Museum, the best institution of its kind in Australia, is situated a few yards to the rear of the University, and is open to the students every day till 10 p. m. There are three faculties in connection with the Melbourne University, viz., Arts, Law and Medicine. The entire management of the institution is in the hands of a

business of the Province could not be carried on by 21 members in the Legislature instead of 38? This is a practical reform which can be made without much difficulty, and a further saving of about \$10,000 would be the result.

While we are talking about the reduction of members from the counties, let us say a word about cutting down the number of members in the Government. It is ridiculous to have a cabinet composed of nine men to pass a few local laws and discuss how to spend \$600,000 per annum, while the British Cabinet, ruling over millions and spending \$350,000,000, is composed of only a dozen men. Cut down the Cabinet to the three departmental members, and a saving of from \$2000 to \$3000 will be made.

A favourite scheme of those who wish to see Assemblies administering local affairs, yet not desiring them to spend money needlessly is to have biennial sessions. Nearly half the States of the Union have tried this, and in every one it has been a decided success. Men are elected and think they must do some work to show that they are not idle, and laws are tinkered and altered so that even lawyers themselves are puzzled. Next session more conflicting laws and amendments to existing laws are introduced, and so this amending and counter-amending goes on until a well-paid commission has to be appointed to consolidate the Statutes. If a session were held every second year, members would then have some real work to do. The sum of money the Province would gain by this we have no means at present of determining, but it would be no inconsiderable amount. In a short time, we think, this will be seriously debated by the legislators who desire to see our scanty revenue applied more to public purposes than to pay unnecessary legislative expenses.

Each of these reforms now and then finds an advocate of more or less influence. Certainly the saving made by each separate scheme is not very large, but the total is a very desirable sum, and it would make all the difference between going in debt and having the equilibrium between income and expenditure restored, besides allowing more money to be spent on much-needed public services.

University Council, nominated by the Colonial Government.

The Professors in Arts receive £1,000 a year, or nearly \$5,000. They are also provided with rooms in the University, where most of them reside. They are appointed by the University Council and hold their positions by the same tenure as the Judges of the Supreme Court. Most of the present professors are graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, and men of high attainments in their respective departments.

The lecturers in Law and Medicine, usually barristers and doctors in good practice in Melbourne, are appointed for five years, and only get half the amount paid to the Arts professors. All fees receivable from students in the three faculties are paid into the Colonial Treasury; the professors and lecturers only receiving their fixed salaries.

Melbourne University being supported by the state, is of course non-sectarian, and is patronized by students of all denominations. At the time of its establishment, four reserves were marked off in the University Park and assigned respectively to Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Wesleyans, as sites for theological colleges. The Roman Catholics as yet, have made no use of their reserve, as they had excellent theological institutions of their own in Melbourne before the University was established. The Wesleyans are not yet sufficiently numerous or wealthy to found a Divinity School. They expect to be able to do so in the course of a few years. Both the Presbyterians and Episcopalians, however, have built magnificent colleges on their several reserves, in which young men who have completed their Arts course in the University, are trained for the ministry. Ormond College, which belongs to the former denomination, and Trinity College, which has been established by the Episcopalians, are both in affiliation with the Melbourne University, although of course being sectarian institutions, they are supported by their respective churches, and receive no aid from the Colonial Treasury.

The university year begins in March and extends over eight months. It is divided into terms as in England. The Arts course extends

over four years, and upon the whole is not more difficult than that in Dalhousie. The Matriculation examination is conducted solely by means of printed papers, and embraces ten subjects, viz.: Algebra (to Quadratics), Arithmetic, English Language, Euclid, (two books), French, Geography, German, Greek, History (Roman and Grecian), and Latin. It is only necessary that a candidate should pass in any six of these subjects. This examination takes place in November and is held simultaneously in all the large towns in the colony. Last November, 782 candidates, of whom 286 were young ladies, presented themselves at the Matriculation examination, and 620, of whom 176 were ladies, passed. Do not, however, let this statement take away your breath, for it requires explanation. In Victoria, this examination has two objects. First, as with you, it is a test of the candidate's fitness to enter upon the undergraduate course. But as in the case of the University Local Examinations in England, it is supposed to be a standard by which the character of the teaching imparted in the public and private schools throughout the colony may be tested. Hundreds matriculate every year who have no intention of taking a university course. In fact, ladies, although they may matriculate, are not admitted to the lectures of the university. Next year, however, this anomalous state of matters will be remedied, and ladies will be admitted to all the benefits and privileges of a university course upon equal terms with their brothers. No boy is supposed to have completed his career in the public school until he can "*pass matric.*," as the expression is. Having done so, he then goes into a store or office, or learns a trade, as the case may be. No young lady is supposed to "*come out*" until she "*matric.*" The results of the matriculation examination, giving the names of the successful candidates, the subjects in which they passed, and the schools in which they have been prepared, are published about Christmas in all the colonial newspapers. Those who pass in four subjects, two of which must be Arithmetic and English, are classified as having passed the Civil Service Examination, and are eligible to positions in government offices. The names of the successful

candidates are not arranged in order of merit. Each paper is marked by the examiner "Well," "Pass," or "Not pass." A candidate who gets "Well" in four subjects, is said to "pass with credit." This is considered a great honour, and only a few attain to it. Only 4 out of 782 got "credit" at the last November examination. It will thus be seen that those yearly examinations exert a powerful influence upon the schools in the colony. Each teacher is anxious that his school shall turn out a greater number of successful candidates than any other. The pupils are impelled to diligent study by thoughts of the honour which awaits them if they "*pass matric.*"

Having passed his matriculation examination, the student who looks forward to a degree has the option of attending the university lectures or not, as he pleases. Numbers graduate every year who never attended a lecture during their whole undergraduate course. All that is necessary to entitle one to a degree is to pay the yearly fee of £24, and pass all the sessional examinations. Many students, of course, attend during the four years. Some only attend lectures during their third and fourth years. A large number of the undergraduates are engaged in teaching or hold positions in banks and government offices. In the large cities of Victoria, colleges have been established upon the same principle as *Prince of Wales College* in Charlottetown, where young men, without leaving their homes, can receive all the instruction necessary to enable them to pass the sessional examinations for the first and second years at the university. Those institutions are also attended by young men and women who wish to receive a more advanced education than the State schools can impart, and who do not intend to take a university course. Ballarat College, Geelong College and Scotch College in Melbourne, are institutions of this description.

There are over a hundred Arts students in regular attendance at the University, and about fifty Medicals. The Law students number about forty. They are strangers to the refining and humanizing influences of "Sam Simons" and kindred melodies, but at foot-ball, cricket and rowing, they would beat the Dalhousie boys hollow.

There is a large number of valuable scholarships and exhibitions in connection with Melbourne University. Those, however, are only open to students who attend lectures. Although the Legislature annually votes £9,000 towards its support, the University has now a revenue which renders it nearly self-supporting. The yearly fee to be paid by each student is equivalent to \$120. This fee has to be paid by all who present themselves at the sessional examinations, whether they attend the lectures or not. The B. A. parchment costs fifteen guineas. The degree of M. A. is only awarded by examination. It cannot be taken within one year after the B. A. degree has been awarded. The M. A. parchment costs twenty guineas. Graduates in Law and Medicine have to pay fifty guineas for their diplomas.

Melbourne University would be a credit to any city or nation in the world. Fifty years ago Victoria was only inhabited by savages and kangaroos. Forty years ago Melbourne, which has now a population of 300,000, was a swamp, with a few shepherd's huts scattered here and there. Thirty years ago, when the population of the whole colony was only 200,000, Melbourne University was established by the State at a cost of £100,000, and ever since a yearly grant of £9,000 has been cheerfully voted towards its support by the Colonial Legislature. No sectarian jealousy or discord has ever interfered with its harmonious and successful operation. Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Baptists—all denominations—flock to its class-rooms to receive an advanced and liberal education. The State, while providing all its citizens with an institution in which a non-sectarian education of the highest order can be acquired, has very wisely left to the different religious denominations the task of supporting seminaries in which their peculiar theological dogmas may be taught and inculcated. Had Nova Scotia but pursued a like judicious course in the past, the better would it have been for the cause of higher education in that Province.

BALLARAT.

January 27th, 1881.

WHAT A GYMNASIUM MIGHT BE  
AND DO.

EVERY college of any pretension almost has some sort of a gymnasium,—indeed holds it out to the public as one of the attractions. There is a building, and there is apparatus in it. The former often costs twice as much as needs be; the latter may be well made, but in fact more frequently is not. Instead of having apparatus graded, so as to have some for the slim and weak, some for the stout and strong, too often one pair of parallel bars, or one size of dumb-bells must suffice for all. Frequently the apparatus getting loose, or worn, or out of repair, remains so. The director is little more than a janitor, and is so regarded. The newly-arrived freshman is generally run down and thin from overwork in preparing himself for college. Many a time when much work was telling on him, he consoled himself with the thought that in the college gymnasium, with his fellow students about him, all eagerly at work, he would soon pick up the strength he had lost, and perhaps come to be, in time, as strong as this or that fellow, a few years his senior, the fame of whose athletic exploits was more than local.

Now what is Dalhousie College doing for its pupils in regard to a gymnasium to build them up and fit them for the battle of life? Physical education ought to be made compulsory in every college and school in this Province. Have it directly under the eye and guidance of an instructor, and have that instructor know that at the quarterly or semi-annual examination, reasonable progress will be expected in this department just as certainly as in any other, and that if he is not up to his work, some one who is, will be put in his place. Then that progress will surely come. It has come already where the means have been understood, as witness Maclaren abroad and McKay here; and it brings such benefit to the pupils that no pains should be spared to insure it. The trouble really is that the student does not know what to do to tone himself up and keep himself equal to his tasks, and that it takes but a little to effect this. He

will travel fast and far, he will do almost anything, but he knows no certain cure. Is it not as important to have good health and strength as to be a good mathematician, to have a smattering of French or German, or to read Virgil or Homer? Who is the more likely, if his work be of a sedentary nature, to live but half his days, he who has never learned to build and strengthen his body and keep it regulated and healthy, or he who has? Is not that worth doing which will almost surely lengthen one's life and increase one's usefulness, especially when it takes but a little time daily to do it, and still less when the habit is commenced in childhood? Go through our provincial colleges and schools, and see how few thoroughly well built boys and young men there are. Good points are not scarce, but how small the proportion of deep-chested, well-formed and robust youths, who give promise of making strong, straight and healthy men. If Dalhousie College intends maintaining a high rank in the educational world, it must commence to educate the body as well as the mind. How is it that the number of our youths who go to English and Scotch colleges every year return straight, strong, and in capital form? The Governors of Dalhousie should convert the basement of the college (now rented and used as stores) into a gymnasium for the students. It would not cost a large amount; two or three hundred dollars would fit up and furnish a very good gymnasium. And if some of the wealthy men of our city would step in and endow a *Chair of Physical Education*, they would have the satisfaction of seeing the College sending out strong, active and solid men. J. S. M.

IN this issue of the GAZETTE it is our sad duty to record the death of Charlotte Mary Hale, the beloved wife of Rev. Dr. Lyall, Professor of Logic and Psychology, who departed this life on the 1st inst. The students, after the remains had been placed in their last resting-place, held a meeting in the College, where suitable resolutions were passed and a committee appointed to present a letter of condolence expressing heartfelt sympathy with the Professor in his trying bereavement.

OUR EXCHANGES.

*Rouge et Noir* comes from Trinity College, Toronto. It is issued quarterly. We are favorably impressed with the number before us. The greater part of its contents is well written and of a high standard. We would expect nothing else than this, as at least the editors cannot be pushed for time. Perhaps, with a little more exertion on the part of the students, we would see this paper oftener. We learn from it that Trinity is moving towards improvement. It is learning that to extend its usefulness it must show more activity; that it is not enough for it to live but that it must conform to the demands of the age. We hope to see *Rouge et Noir* again.

*King's College Record*, instead of submitting with a becoming grace to some suggestions in a late issue of the GAZETTE in regard to filling its columns with poetry, which we considered of an order too inferior for the literary department of any paper of an acknowledged good standing, accuses the GAZETTE of unwarrantable fault-finding and a lack of poetical taste. We candidly acknowledge that we are devoid of *that taste* which would enable us to appreciate some of the *Record's* poetry. And we prefer being called *prosy* than to claim a Muse whose strains are to be measured more by quantity than by quality. We have always endeavoured to act conscientiously in criticising our contemporaries. Where we saw improvement was needed, we offered a suggestion, for we consider this the understood right of all College papers. And it is only the *Record* and a few others that consider themselves beyond the benefit of a suggestion. Hitherto we supposed the poetry we had reference to was inserted more for the purpose of filling up than for any merit, but when the *Record* attempts to defend it on the ground of merit and our want of taste, we can only say that either the *abilities* of its editors mark them out as being unfit for the position they occupy, or else it takes it for granted that its readers are incapable of distinguishing between *poetry* and the "hash" with which its columns are stuffed. But when the talk of "union" is consummated, our tastes will be shaped in the same mould, then *prosy* Dalhousie, hand in hand with *poetical* Kings, will produce a paper worthy of both; then will Presbyterian "paraphrases" and Episcopal "hymns" form a chorus that will astonish old Kings itself. The February number of the *Record* is the best we have seen so far.

Space will not allow us to notice any more of our contemporaries in this issue.

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.

REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.—The Seniors are daily prostrated with a most virulent and fatal epidemic, viz.,—laziness.

"No son of *Dalhousie* should fear public criticism," quoth a daring Freshman as he sauntered into the Academy *cum puella* and turned his fearless eyes towards his comrades among the gods.

THEY—a Senior and young lady—were nearing the residence of the young lady. *Loquitur illa!*—"Are you going to be a minister, Mr.—?" "Yes; do you like ministers?" "Like them? Why I fairly love them—*scarce*." And "Then and there were sudden partings," &c.

THERE are punsters even within the classic walls of Dalhousie. When the lecturer was discoursing on the clothing of our first parents, a Senior growled "Better *leave* it alone."

THE following effusion was found in a freshman's MSS.:

A POETICAL MEETING.

*Longfellow* to ease his *Akenside*  
Attended a tea-worry,  
In a village where "Maud Mullers" fair  
Had charmed him erst at soiree.

He talked and ate till all were sate,  
He sang sweet "Annie Laurie";  
He took of meats and quoted Keats,  
And whispered love to "Florrie."

He spoke sublime of Italy's clime,  
And lands of ancient story;  
Of Phillip's fame and Cæsar's name,  
And battles great and gory:

Of Shelley's Lark and "Sad Moidart,"  
And terse Shakesperian lore;  
Burns and Ramsay when he Goethe, (got tea)  
But slyly glanced at *Moore*.

They passed him ham, and even Lamb,  
He praised Gray e'er and e'er;  
Folk wondered why a youth so shy,  
Should ever sigh for *Moore*.

"Now more and more, more and more,"  
"Oh give me *Moore*" he sings,  
"I'd be a fool to stick at school—  
Oh would that I had wings!"

"MAN is an active being," said the Principal in the course of a lecture. Had he looked upon his class serenely sleeping the sleep of the just, he would have realized that even this is not a universal principle.

THE Juniors were *shocked* badly the other day with some mean trick the Electricity played on them. Shocking!!

THE Students desire to thank Rev. C. B. Pitblado for his kindness in sending them tickets for his lecture on the Great North West.

ITEMS.

AN exchange asks:—"Who is the miserable sneak-thief that purloins rubbers, gloves, handkerchiefs and books from the waiting rooms?" We feel like asking for information also.

PROF. to Soph.—Pointing to a prodigious expectation on class room floor: "Quid est hoc?" Soph. in quivering accents "Hoc est quid."

PROF. in Latin to freshmen: Give the principal parts of the verb of which ductum is the supine. Bucolic freshie—Heno, goosere, turci, ductum. Omnes stampunt.

AN exchange says that a man on the P. R. R. was so cross-eyed, that in trying to get asleep, he wrung his neck off.

COLUMBIA College, New York, is about to put up \$750,000 worth of new buildings.

AT Cornell the trustees have recently appropriated \$100,000 for the general improvement of the college. —*Trinity Tablet.*

PROF.—"Put this sentence into French: I haven't smoked yet." Mr. Haud—"Je ne suis pas encore fumé."

PROF C. to junior:—"Mr. C., you don't seem to be very thoroughly acquainted with this subject; why is it?" Mr. C.:—"Well, to tell you the truth, Professor, I was up yesterday, and did not expect to be called upon to-day."

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REV. JOHN FORREST, \$2; Rev. D. McGregor, A. Dickie, B. A., Rev. Arch. Gunn, F. S. Kinsman, B. A., Wm. Hartshorne, H. Elliot, W. L. McRae, G. Creelman, \$1 each.

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