

J. MacB

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DEATH AND SLEEP.

(From the German of Krummacher.)

Stern, solemn Death, and quiet, lovely Sleep,
 The angel guards of slumber and of death,
 In brother-like embrace walked o'er the earth.
 Still evening slowly settled on the scene,
 As on an eminence which overlooked
 The haunts of men they lay them down to rest.
 A melancholy silence reigned around.
 The gentle tolling of the vesper bells
 In distant towns and villages grew mute.
 Silent, these benefactors of mankind
 Lay fondly clasped within each others arms,
 And darkness threw her shadow o'er the land.
 Then, rising from his mossy couch, Sleep strewed
 The seeds of Slumber with a noiseless hand.
 The evening zephyr wafted them away
 To give repose to Nature's wearied sons.
 Sweet Slumber now enfolded in its arms
 The inmates of the rural Cottages,
 From hoary grandsire tottering on his staff
 To infant cradled in its downy couch.
 The sick one's racking pains, the mourner's grief,
 The poor man's worrying cares, were all forgot,
 And every eye was sealed in calm repose.
 His work accomplished, sleep returned to rest
 And by his brother's side lay down once more.
 When morning broke, he wakened with a smile,
 And with a cheerful innocence exclaimed,
 Oh, what a joy, in secret to perform
 Our acts of goodness! Oh, how happy we,
 The unseen messengers of good to men.
 So spake this friendly Guardian of sleep,
 While Death in sadness answered him, with tears
 In his dark eyes such as Immortals weep,
 Not like you, can I grateful thanks enjoy,
 The world regards me only as a foe,
 As a disturber of its joy and peace.
 Oh Brother mine, his angel friend replied,
 Will not the good acknowledge you a friend,
 And bless you at the resurrection morn?
 Are we not brothers of one family,
 And of one common Father messengers?
 This said, from Death's eye shot a lustrous gleam,
 And tenderly those brother genii
 Embraced each other as they went their way.

A VOYAGE OVER THE ATLANTIC.

WHO has never longed to cross the ocean? Whose pulse has not quickened, and his heart throbbed, at the mere sight of the sea? and as we read the well-known, marvellous "Travellers' Tales," we almost feel that to be a sailor would

be our highest ambition. I remember how proud I felt, as I stood upon the deck of a sailing-vessel, ready for a voyage over the Atlantic, and how day after day, I took more interest in, and learned more about, the sea, the barque, the crew, and ship concerns in general. Some of my experiences, and the events that transpired during the voyage, might not prove uninteresting.

It is generally imagined that superstition has by this time died away from among seafaring men. This is not the case. True indeed, no sailor now thinks of standing on the anchor and whistling for fair wind, or of tying an old boot to the bowsprit as a charm against demons and evil spirits (it would make a capital scarecrow at all events); and yet a milder form of superstition is still prevalent on ship-board. I recollect one day of the Captain's telling a sailor to hurry aloft; the old tar muttered something, and begged to be excused; and on his officer's good-naturedly asking him the reason, pointed mysteriously to the heavens. Following the direction of his finger, I glanced upwards, and to my astonishment beheld a light, fleecy cloud of the shape of a giant, with one hand extended as if bestowing either a benediction or a curse upon our gallant barque. I will not undertake to assert that the resemblance was perfect; doubtless there was a gap here, a projection there, and similar incongruities; but imagination filled up the vacuums, and kept in the background what was too prominent or out of place; and certainly the figure approached much more nearly to what is generally conceived to be the shape of a giant, than the forms of the bloated two-headed monsters which glare at us from the pages of children's story-books, can pretend to. From that moment I understood how sailors as a class are so superstitious, and what apparently good reasons they have to be so. Lying at full length upon the deck, I next proceeded to examine every cloud as it passed within my sphere of observation. And those very ones which ten minutes before I had looked upon as shapeless deformities, now before my wondering gaze moulded themselves into all sorts of figures; and I am confident that the eye of the Astronomer never divided the heavens into more and stranger phantasms and monsters, than did mine at that moment.

Anything that affords contrast to the ceaseless monotony of water and sky, is welcome to passengers at sea; and every sail and object in sight is watched with intense interest. You may imagine then, with what alacrity I sprang from my berth one bright morning, and hurried to the deck, when the single word "Iceberg" had been shouted in my ear. About

two miles off lay a huge mass, seemingly immovable; and as the sun shone full upon this fortress of ice, never did prism or artificial apparatus reflect its beams more gloriously. But our interest heightened as we distinctly saw upon its very summit a small black speck. What could it be? Spy-glasses were brought into requisition, and after much conjecture and dispute, the Captain declared it to be a large rock, firmly planted in this icy bed. What a history went with that boulder! In imagination we saw it in some region in the far North, water freezing around it and on all sides, next in the heart of a gigantic iceberg, contesting for room with whalers and whales; the berg begins to melt, and the rock is now on its summit; and as we stand gazing, we almost expect to witness the last scene, viz., the splitting up or dissolving of the ice, and the fall of its uncouth burden to the caverns of the deep.

One of the most amusing spectacles on board ship, is the appearance of a shoal of fish. I remember one day in particular, when the sea was literally alive with porpoises and "black-fish" together, "of all sizes, assorted." These finny creatures acted in a very strange manner. To observe their movements and graceful evolutions would suggest the idea that the theory of perpetual motion is not so far astray after all. It was laughable to witness their actions; a favorite feat was to place their heads out of the water, and dip them in again two or three feet off, their bodies thus forming an arc of considerable dimensions; and then to roll over slowly and gracefully, until their tails disappeared beneath the gurgling waves; and where or when they next arose, no one could say. But it was fully as ludicrous to listen to the profound views, explanatory of their conduct, entertained by the crew. Thus the captain suggested that they were attending a tea-meeting; the mate thought it was more probably a wedding; his opponent in everything, the second mate, swore that it was a funeral; the steward and carpenter shook their heads, and whispered that this appearance boded no good to the ship; while it was the opinion of the sailors that the fish were attending some old country dance—"probably," as an Irishman suggested, "Sir Roger's *discovery*."

In a voyage, three things are especially dreaded; and yet what ship is there, which has not encountered them? These are, a fog, a calm, and a storm. Nothing can be imagined more disagreeable than the first of these. A fog on land is generally considered unpleasant: but a fog at sea—where the ship is in momentary danger of rushing against an iceberg or a stray vessel—is dangerous in the extreme. In such a case, with a mist frequently so dense that the most practised eye cannot penetrate beyond a few yards, lights have to be hung up on the rigging, and the horn and trumpet unceasingly employed.

But even this situation is often preferred by mariners (by those, that is, of a sailing-vessel) to a calm. Now on land we generally imagine that a calm should be a very desirable and agreeable thing; the sun is shining, birds flying around the ship, fish disporting themselves; all is life and animation. This is the bright side of the subject; unhappily it has too frequently a dark side. The captain is in a hurry to get to land; already has the vessel been out an extraordinary time;

the provisions are far from abundant, the stock of water getting low; the time of the Equinoctial Gales will soon arrive; and, while the ship keels lazily from side to side, and the sails are wearing out from flapping continuously against the masts, the captain strides impatiently over the deck, and from the bottom of his heart desires a change of weather, even though it blow a hurricane. And just a short time after, see! the barometer shows unmistakable symptoms of sea-sickness; a metallic bar along the horizon denotes an impending storm; birds flit uneasily to and fro, perchance seek refuge amongst the rigging; the water begins to heave, and the breeze to rise; the waves form regular swells, and the wind has filled the stretching canvass; soon billow after billow dashes with ever-increasing violence against the sides of the noble ship; it is blowing a hurricane,—the *storm* has come! now the vessel proudly rises heavenward, now she descends a vast abyss; waves mountains high are before, behind, and on both sides; a huge billow angrily sweeps against her—can she survive it? Helmsman! stout be your arm, vigilant your eye!—a boom is heard, and rent from the yards by the tempest's power, the canvass is scattered in ribbons; the masts bend and creak; the bows are under water—no, she has stood the shock; and though the rain still descends in pitiless torrents, the thunder still rumbles, and the lightning is still vivid, the force of the storm has been expended, and the swollen surge commences to subside; the ship is safe;—O, would that in all similar cases, the end were the same!

At length the sound "land!" is echoed throughout the vessel,—joyful news, and yet not so enthusiastically received as would be possible under different circumstances. Gentle reader, if you ever had the pleasure of standing on the bow of a ship, in momentary danger of sliding off, drenched to the skin with rain, chilled and fatigued, with your eye fixed, for the space of two hours, upon some imaginary point in the horizon, where it is supposed that land will first appear; then if at last you see a faint grey line, which afterwards grows into a low, not very picturesque, sea-coast, you will excuse me for not being thrilled with joy, and for my breast not heaving with a thousand indescribable emotions; I indeed, attempted an hurrah, but a gust of wind and rain all but choked me; I tried to take off my cap, but my hands were too numb; and instead of jumping overboard and swimming to land, I slunk off to the cabin, and demanded a cup of tea.

What more is there to add? the harbour is reached; friends are here to meet and greet; a few short hours, and miles of country separate us effectually from the ocean.

ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

The history of the world can scarcely present such another spectacle of heroism as has been exhibited in the prosecution of Arctic discoveries. The courage necessary to brave the dangers of the sea, ice floes, barren wildernesses, and the intense cold, merits the admiration of man. The love of adventure and perhaps of fame may have contributed much to inspire some; but the leading minds appear to have been influenced by a more utilitarian spirit. After the discovery of the new world, Commerce now growing rapidly, required a shorter road to the merchandise of the East. Columbus made the attempt to go right round this sphere (as he convinced himself) for the wealthy Indies, but instead, he stumbled on an India new to the world. Beyond this stretched a barrier from the unknown North to the far South,—the Americas. But the long routes doubling Africa or still worse, doubling South America, showed the great commercial advantages of a shorter route. Then was mooted the question of a North Eastern or North Western Passage to China and India. Sebastian Cabot turned his prow north-

wards, till at 67° 30' N. he feared to proceed any further. And strange to be true! although many a gallant bark has been imprisoned in the ice floes or crushed to powder by colliding bergs, although failure has succeeded failure, and disaster succeeded disaster, more than two hundred voyages have been made since, by heroes of the Northern seas—worthy of the fame of Hercules. Nearly three hundred years ago Frobisher made three voyages north. John Davis in 1588 went as far as 72° N. in the strait that bears his name, and reported an open sea. Henry Hudson after his attempt to find a North Eastern Passage followed about 1610. Button, and a few years after, Baffin, denies Davis' open sea after an expedition thither, in which ice stopped further progress at 78° N. Jens Munk, a Dane, and afterwards Fox and James about 1631 followed. A cessation for a century or longer, then a few more expeditions. The British Parliament now offered a reward of £20,000 to the discoverer of the long sought passage to the North West. In 1818 the admiralty sent out John Ross and Parry. Ross was glad to get back shortly after entering Lancaster Sound. Parry went on, through Barrow's Strait, which he named, until stopped by ice, 110° W., having gone 30° further west than any explorer had yet gone. For this he was received with great demonstrations of welcome in England. From 1821 to 1823, Parry extended his explorations. In 1829 Ross came within 200 miles of Point Turnagain, which had been reached on the other side from Behring's Strait. He also discovered the Magnetic Pole. Dease, Simpson, Rae, then Sir John Franklin followed. The latter left England on the 19th May, 1845, and was last seen in Baffin's Bay. After considerable cruising, having gone North to 77°, the "Erebus" and "Terror" were surrounded by the ice in Lat. 70° N. Long. 98° 30' W. on the 12th September 1846. Franklin died on the 11th June, 1847. All the men, after great hardship in endeavoring to reach the mainland, perished. Then followed expeditions for the search of the lost crew, the result of which was the discovery of relics that attested their fate. M'Clure at length forced a passage through, although he had to be rescued by Sir Edward Belcher. We will mention only one more. Dr. Kane, who in 1854 arrived at Lat. 81° 22' N., and saw a high mountain, which he conjectured to be in latitude 82° 30' N. He reported an open sea, boundless as far as the eye could reach towards the north.

As early as 1553 Sir Hugh Willoughby left England, with three ships to explore a North Eastern Passage. Off Cape North one of his ships was tossed on the frozen coast of the White Sea, the others being driven northward to Spitzbergen. In the same century three English and three Dutch expeditions followed, but with no success. In the next century, Henry Hudson, and nearly seventy years afterwards, Wood, met with like results. The Muscovites afterwards, but it took many seasons, nearly made out the southern boundaries of the Arctic Sea. In 1741 Behring discovered the strait which received his name, but sacrificed himself and crew. The Russians in 1820-23, made a great sledge exploration of these hyperborean regions.

But while the wants of commerce were stimulating the adventurers to the discoveries of these much sought for, but impracticable routes, Science gazed with a longing look towards the Pole. There undoubtedly lay a key to a correct theory of atmospheric and oceanic currents—there lay the Magnetic Pole,—there lay an undiscovered flora, fauna and geologic structure,—there probably was the home of the whale. Hudson and Fotherby attempted a solution of the mystery. Then came a century and a half of quiet. In 1773 Captain John Phipps (afterwards Lord Mulgrave) reached latitude 80° 48' N., within 49 miles of Henry Hudson's greatest north latitude. It is important to recollect these as we shall see directly. The scene of these attempts is between Greenland and Spitzbergen. Shortly after this £5000 was offered

to him who should come within 1° of the Pole. This trifling sum when compared with the danger and hardship which such a discovery involved, excited no competition. However, 1806 saw Scoresby within 510 miles of the Pole, in the direction of Spitzbergen, Lat. 82° 30'. Then failure succeeded failure, until Parry, in the *Hecla*, reached lat. 82° 40' N., the latter part of the journey being accomplished by sledges on the ice, which unfortunately commenced drifting south as fast as he travelled north. He had consequently to relinquish the undertaking, though sorely against his will.

Last year Dr. Petermann, of Gotha, planned expeditions to the Pole. The *Ice Bear* under command of Lieutenants Payer and Weyprecht, was reported to have sailed north between Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla and to have discovered an "open sea swarming with whales," in lat. 78° N. and between long. 42° and 60° E. Upon this several journals announced that the Open Polar Sea was at length discovered. We noticed in the last "Gazette" a very curious hypothesis constructed on the faith of this report. But certainly there is nothing new in this discovery. It is, we may say, no discovery at all, so far as it goes to solve the mysteries of the Pole. Henry Hudson in the beginning of the seventeenth century sailed further north on the west of Spitzbergen. So also did Phipps in 1773, and Scoresby in 1806. And in 1827, Parry reached, as above mentioned, lat. 82° 40' N., more than 4°, or between 200 and 300 miles further north than the open sea discovered by Payer and Weyprecht. Also, from the experience of *Koldewey*, on a similar expedition last year, we learn that the way to the pole appears to be as impracticable as ever by water. Yet, however, we hope to learn the secrets of the North. Science and perseverance mount the air, tunnel mountains and girdle the world. Maybe ere long they may travel the fields and mountains of ice, cross the waters burdened and vexed with vast floes and chill bergs, and repeat again to the world: "There is nothing hidden but it shall be revealed."

OUR EXCHANGES.

WE welcome to our table the January number of *Old and New*, one of the leading American monthlies. It presents a rich literary bill of fare for its readers. With Rev. E. E. Hale, for its editor, one of the most sparkling writers of the present day, and such contributors as Geo. MacDonald, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Joaquin Miller, and other notabilities in every department of literature, it promises to give its readers for 1872 an unsurpassed literary feast. One department of the magazine,—*"The Examiner,"* contains reviews of new books, while another, *"The Record of Progress,"* is, as its name implies, a *resumé* of contemporary advance in every section of civilized life. This part of the number for January has an account of the present condition of Harvard College, which is instructive and profitable to all those engaged in collegiate education. Catholicity of sentiment is one of the most prominent features of the magazine. While not despising the *old* in religion, literature and art, it makes the best of the *new*. It has all the flavor and richness of *old* wine, with the lightness and sparkle of *new*.

With the beginning of the year *The College Courant* starts upon a new career of usefulness. Prof. Geo. F. Barker, M. D., of Yale, one of the most eminent scientists of America, has been appointed scientific editor, and under his management this department will be greatly enlarged and improved. The other departments will be enriched by articles from men at the head of their professions, and the *Courant* will continue to be, as it has ever been, the most reliable record of progress in individual colleges and collegiate education generally.

Dalhousie Gazette.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

WE consider it necessary to remind our subscribers once more, that their subscriptions are overdue, and would respectfully request an immediate payment.

As we mentioned before, no trouble exists with regard to the forwarding of subscriptions since the issue of 25 cent notes, and, as we are desirous of settling all financial matters before the end of the collegiate term in the spring, subscribers who have not yet paid will greatly oblige us by attending to this matter as soon as possible.

THE question of a change of some kind in our higher education has lately been freely discussed. Though in the majority of cases it has assumed a personal bearing, still much information has been elicited, and certainly not a few remarkable modes of argument and expression at once childish and entirely foreign to the subject. Around our Alma Mater the battle rages, and though we neither represent the Senate nor Governors, we would lend our quota not to refutation of wholesale assertions or academic ignorance, but in giving our humble views on a Central University for Nova Scotia. The three leading ideas of the subject are to our mind:—I. That Sectarian Universities are not adapted to the liberal culture of our young men—II. That a city in a small province like this is the most suitable place for a University, and III. That one Central Unsectarian University is the best thing we can have, and the only solution of the present difficulty. Of these in turn—

Firstly—The tendencies of the age are towards a closer relation between all Christians. The narrow barriers of sectarian opinion are being thrown down, and the little trifles which appeared as mountains to our forefathers—to our advanced

civilization are no more than shades of one grand truth. Now what more injurious to the development of such tendencies than to have each church teaching to a few students its particular “ism”—making them, as has been well expressed, “of the church churchy.” Views are moderated and modified by intercourse. The Young men of Nova Scotia want to meet as Nova Scotians—to feel that their aims are one, and to have fostered in them a generous rivalry of mental effort. This can only be done in a non-sectarian University.

Secondly—Halifax, we think, is the best place for such an institution. True, we have been staggered by an announcement in one of our evening exchanges, “that great Universities were not in large cities.” Still such seats of learning as the University of Paris—of Vienna—Glasgow—Edinburgh, and many others flourish in large cities. The young man who is sickly enough in his morals to be blighted in a city like Halifax, will do little good at or from home. This sentimental twaddle of influences may serve a purpose with honest though misguided parents, but will have no weight with educated men. Halifax is the only place in Nova Scotia possessing the necessary accompaniments for a collegiate education.

Thirdly—One central University. Though we are decidedly in favor of Halifax as a location, still it is by no means indispensable to a central University. It may flourish elsewhere, this is a matter of opinion. But on the necessity of one large, well endowed, well equipped, and well attended University, we think there can be no doubt. Among the many solutions of the “College Question” is that of a Central Board of Examiners, after the fashion of the University of London. For Nova Scotia this is altogether impracticable. What is the sense of scattering 250 students over all the land in bands of from 10 up to a 100, in six small colleges? What a useless waste of energy and means! How can the systems of teaching be reconciled? One college keeps a register of attendance, another does not. At one college your presence is necessary on every day required by the calendar. At others, and the majority of those in this Province, students can suit their convenience by doing something else during the prescribed terms, and “going up” at the end of the session. A sorry task to reconcile all these differences. But worse than all, how are we to obtain a Board of Examiners? In this small and comparatively poor country we have no learned men by profession. Life must be supported by labour of some kind. Consequently we have no men of Education who are removed above active life. It is different in Great Britain. There are scores of men there who can give their attention to a matter of this kind, and who are capable of performing the duties satisfactorily. But with us where could we find men who could prepare examination papers, and properly decide the merits of answers on such subjects as, “Philology, Metaphysics, Classics, the Higher Mathematics, Botany,” &c., outside of the professors of colleges and a few church dignitaries?

We are not speaking slightly of our men of education. We know that they themselves will admit the truth of the

remark. The matter would after all be almost altogether in the hands of the Professors, for to make a show of equality, the examiners would have to be chosen from the different religious bodies. Moreover the examiners would have predilections for the method of teaching pursued at their own "Alma Mater," and not unfrequently might give credit for inferior scholarship because it suited their views. There could be neither incompetency nor partiality charged against professors of a provincial University, as their position would not depend on the whims of denominationalism.

What we want is one college, altogether under the control of the state, without one cent of aid from any religious body. Let the governors and professors be appointed by the Government, without respect to creed or nationality. This will enable the churches to work in their own spheres, and free our higher education from their constant jealousies. It will give us something of which we may be proud, and open up to our young men a course of study which will enable them to take their stand with the graduates of older universities. We do hope that a spirit of broad and unselfish patriotism will take the place of narrow and misguided attachment to dogmas and creeds, and that we will soon possess an institution honourable to our intelligence and wealth, and worthy of being bequeathed to those who may follow us.

THE STUDY OF THE CLASSICS.

THE Classics, so called, have until lately formed a very considerable factor in liberal education, and they still hold a prominent place in the curriculum of many of our colleges. The history of their study is cotemporaneous with the history of Universities, and a short, cursory glance at this history, will lead us to juster views in regard to their present position in any system of collegiate education, and the strength of the arguments that are generally urged in support of them.

During the Middle Ages, the Schoolmen were the sole guardians of learning. Intellectual night brooded over the rest of the world, and even the scholarship of the Schoolmen themselves, consisted in nothing more than a knowledge of the *organon* of Aristotle. The discovery of ancient manuscripts, and the invention of printing led to what is generally known as the "revival of learning." The food of ancient literature was eagerly devoured all over Europe, and a new life and vigor infused into the intellect of man. Chaucer, Petrarch, Dante, Froissart, Bacon, stand forth as some of the results of this awakening. The ancient classics were the only sources of inspiration and knowledge at that time, and the deep draughts that were taken by these men that we have mentioned, became in them perpetual fountains of clear, limpid, gushing thought. So it was with all; the classics were studied everywhere. In them were stored up all that was yet known of poetry or philosophy,—all the best results of human thought; the road to knowledge lay through the fields of ancient literature. Thus the study of Greek and Latin became universal in this age, and bore its proper fruit.

The next step, speaking generally, in the history of classical study, was the pursuit of it for its own sake. Previously, the ulterior aim had been the development of thought,—the quickening of the powers of the mind. This result was of course always obtained; for it would be impossible to come into contact with the thoughts of these "gray spirits" of the olden time, without having the fire of enthusiasm kindled in the mind. A new method, however, had sprung up. Text-

tual criticism, comparison of manuscripts with a view to correct readings, the settlement of the laws of accentuation and the canons of grammatical construction, became the order of the day. This critical study of the text was pursued especially in Germany, and the fruits are shown in a host of critics, whose labors are appropriated in many English editions of the classics at the present day. This is the method that has been also adopted and long practised, in the school of the "Literae Humaniores" at Oxford. In the earlier period, the classics had proved themselves to be powerful levers of thought, and in the later, a good mental gymnastic. These qualities were sufficient to recommend them to educationists, and they have for a long time obtained a prominent and honorable place in every scheme for the higher education. A storm of opposition has arisen against them in these latter days. The world has undergone a wondrous change since the fifteenth century; the channels of activity have become so numerous, that the patient man of thought is almost, so to speak, an *anachronism*. Men are unwilling to spend such a long time in disciplinary studies, especially when as they maintain, there are branches which are the growth of modern thought, that are equally as good as the classics for discipline and do not cost half the labor to acquire. Science has grown up since the time of Bacon, and in its application to the various purposes of progress and industry has achieved grand results. Lovers and supporters of classical study, however, are apt to look with suspicion upon this *parvenu* that has sprung up so suddenly, and is threatening to put aside their favorite. The main arguments that are still used by them in favor of the classics are those, which, as we have pointed out, are derived from the history of their study, viz: that through them the mind is introduced to a new world of grand and beautiful thought, where an enthusiasm is awakened, and that they prove one of the best instruments of mental training or culture. With regard to the moral and intellectual elevation, consequent upon the contemplation of sublime thoughts and truths, surely as much can be gained in this direction among the wonders of modern science, as in the mazes of classical lore. Are not English, French or German literatures as pregnant with beauty as Greek or Roman? The top of Parnassus may reveal wondrous beauties, but it is a rugged steep. Many never reach the top, and retain ever afterwards painful experiences of their fruitless climb.

Again, many eminent men maintain, and their number is being gradually increased, that scientific studies afford just as good discipline as the classics, and have the additional advantage of being practical and useful as well as disciplinary. This mates the second argument of the advocates of classical study. Thus prejudice against the classics, or possibly more against the old method of teaching them, is on the increase; reform is necessary and has already in many places been inaugurated. The progress of linguistic science and classical learning has made the way pretty clear. By the researches of Max Muller and other eminent philologists, language has been elevated to the dignity of a science, thereby opening up a branch of study that is at once fascinating and fruitful. In any reform that may be instituted, ample provision should be made for this the youngest of the sciences. Those who have a taste for and excel in the study of language, will here find a field wide enough for their powers, while those who do not, had better be at something else. To attain the end that it is asserted the study of ancient classics as literatures accomplishes, let prominence be given to English, French and German literatures, and perhaps also to those English versions of the classics that are now-a-days becoming numerous, such as Jowett's Plato, Bryant's Iliad and Odyssey, and Conington's Virgil.

A student cannot see much beauty in a literature that he can with difficulty translate, while he who is eager to obtain

knowledge of language as a science gets little benefit from the rendering of a page or two of Greek or Latin into English, and the application of certain rules to solve the syntax of sentences. The textual study of the Greek and Latin authors may have had good claims in past times to be considered as an essential part of a liberal education, but the progress of thought has put it out of date. The growth of science, and the important bearing of her discoveries upon questions that concern the human race most deeply, has rendered it imperatively necessary that every one should have at least an elementary scientific knowledge, and the accurate habits of thought which scientific investigation creates, has commended it to educationists as a means of mind-training. Moreover, the progress of Comparative Philology on the one hand, and the multiplication of standard translations on the other, which it is to be hoped will soon reach popular editions, has made feasible the reform, which the growth of science has rendered necessary.

Correspondence.

THE MEDICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

In the good old times in which the University of Edinburgh was founded, the study of medicine was confined to men—women had not begun to clamour, as they have in our time, for their so-called rights. Male physicians were deemed sufficient for all ordinary purposes and, therefore, in the regulations of the medical school which was then established no provision was made for women, while none was made which would absolutely exclude them. *Tempora mutantur*, however, and *nos mutamur* with them. Women have discovered that they are as capable of wielding the lance as the needle, and that they can administer Calomel and Jalap as well as Soothing Syrup. Hence the great assault which they have lately made against the Edinburgh University.

The assault has been headed by a woman of whom your readers have all heard, the authoress of a work on "American Schools and Colleges"—Miss Sophia Jex-Blake. On the 20th of March, 1869, she petitioned the Medical Society for permission to attend lectures in the Medical School during the session of 1869-70, stating that the services of lady doctors were in great demand among their own sex, and that it was advisable for Edinburgh to follow the example of Paris and Zurich in throwing open the doors of their universities to persons of both sexes. Her petition was brought before the Faculty, and by a vote of five to one, it was resolved that she "should be allowed to attend the summer classes of Botany and Natural History as a student of medicine by way of experiment; that, in the event of her attendance interfering in any way with the discipline of the classes, the privilege should be withdrawn; and that the consideration of her request to attend other medical classes should be postponed until the faculty have seen the result of the experiment." Thus encouraged, on the 21st of June she again addressed a letter to the Faculty, stating that not only herself but other ladies desired to enter upon medical studies in the University, and requesting that they should recommend the University Court to sanction the matriculation of women as medical students and their admission to the usual examination, on the understanding that separate classes should be formed for their instruction. By a vote of four to two, resolutions favourable to the granting of her request were passed and sent up for approval to the higher Courts. On the 2nd of July, the *Senatus Academicus* resolved that women should be admitted to the study of medicine, in separate classes and on certain conditions. On this the University Court founded a set of

resolutions, which being approved by the General Council, became law. They enacted, that women should be admitted to the study of medicine in the University, that their instruction should be conducted in separate classes confined entirely to women, that Professors of the Faculty of Medicine should be permitted to have separate classes for them, that women not intending to study professionally might be admitted to such of these classes as the Court might from time to time see fit, that the fee for each class should not be less than four guineas; that all who attended these classes should be subject to the existing rules as to matriculation, attendance, &c.; and that these regulations should take effect as law from beginning of session 1869-70. Two points in these enactments must be noted. The third clause is merely permissive, and therefore a Professor lecturing to a separate class of female students, was to depend altogether upon his own inclination. Nor is there made any provision for the appointment of extra lecturers, if a Professor should be unwilling to conduct such a class. Again, no mention is made of graduation. It seems indeed to be implied in the fourth clause, but nothing definite is asserted. Indeed at the meeting of the Court, although the supporters of the ladies were called upon by their opponents to frame some resolution with regard to their graduation, they were unprepared or unwilling to do so, and it was left an open question.

Immediately after the passing of the above resolutions, Miss Jex-Blake and the other ladies went successfully through the Preliminary Examination in Arts, and matriculated as medical students. During their first session nothing worthy of notice occurred. Special and separate classes were held for them, and they were taught in the same manner and by the same men as the male students.

So far then the movement was regarded with general favour. A large majority of the Professors in Arts, Theology and Law were its supporters; and at least four of those in Medicine had voted favourably on the new resolutions. Majorities also in the University Court and General Council had given their approbation. The hopes of the ladies' friends were high, and they had great anticipations of success. Nevertheless they knew that their opponents commanded a majority in the Faculty of Medicine and, that the opposing Professors could refuse at any time to give lectures. In anticipation of future difficulties, therefore, a society was formed, whose object was the promotion of the medical education of women, and its members resolved that their object should be gained if their influence and money could gain it.

Medical students of the University of Edinburgh may take four courses of lectures on certain subjects from recognized extramural lecturers, instead of attending the College classes. In the session of 1870-71, Miss Jex-Blake and her allies availed themselves of this provision, and among others they joined, in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, a recognized class of Practical Anatomy. This was a mixed class. Male and female students dissected in the same room. Such a state of matters was not satisfactory, and last winter's riot was the consequence. The male students seized the gates of the College, refused entrance for some time to their female fellow-students, even assailed them with broadsides of snowballs, and in other ways, by deed as well as by word, testified their displeasure at their presence. Miss Jex-Blake, exasperated at this treatment, sought to take revenge by publicly accusing Prof. Christison's assistant of being drunk on the morning of the riot. The libel suit of Craig vs. Jex-Blake was caused by this charge, and a verdict of ¼d. damages and costs was given against the defendant. The costs amounted to about £900. During this session, the feeling of hostility against the measure was deepened among its opponents. Its supporters, however, drew together also, and both claimed that their opinions were gaining ground among those who had hitherto been undecided.

A medical student in Edinburgh must, after matriculation, pass three examinations:—one between his second and third years, another between his third and fourth years, and the last at the end of his fourth year. The ladies, having already studied during two sessions, must therefore pass an examination before entering on the third, and thus it was necessary that it should now be decided, whether or not, they should be allowed to be examined for degrees. The *Senatus Academicus* sought legal advice; and the opinion of eminent counsel was, that under existing regulations it was not lawful for such permission to be given them. The Dean of the Medical Faculty, therefore, notified the ladies that they could not be examined, and that the decision of the question had been reserved. The ladies now took legal advice, and the opinion of eminent counsel which they obtained was, that if not permitted to be examined they had good ground for action against the Dean. He, finding himself in a dilemma, wisely took that course which was safest for himself, and permitted the lady students to be examined. I need not say that they were not "plucked."

The old proverb says: "Out of the frying-pan, into the fire," and it seemed to be true in this case. No sooner were the ladies safely through their first examination, than further progress was stopped, by the refusal of ten out of twelve Professors to lecture to them. They had already taken four extramural classes and therefore, unless some special arrangements were made, they could not become *Medicinæ Doctores* of the University of Edinburgh. Their supporters, however, were not to be defeated in this way. They, forgetting their former concession, that the question of graduation had not been settled, argued that it was implied in the Regulations and that, if the Professors would not teach the ladies, substitutes ought to be appointed. They moreover offered to pay extra lecturers, to provide class rooms, and funds sufficient for all expenses. At a meeting of the General Council held on the 27th of October, one of them introduced a resolution, which said that the University Court was bound in honour to provide means by which those ladies who had already matriculated might complete their course. This motion, though supported by influential members of the Council, was lost, and an amendment carried which left the decision of the matter to the lower Courts. It now remained with the *Senatus* to express their opinion, and having at their last meeting, by a vote of fourteen to thirteen, resolved that "The Senate represent to the University Court the propriety of rescinding their resolution and regulation in reference to the admission of women to medical education in the University, without reference however to the rights of those ladies who have already entered upon a course of study in pursuance thereof," this resolution was sent up to the Court. I hoped to be able to tell your readers in this letter the final decision of the University Court, and the fate of the lady students. It seems difficult however for the Court to decide. They have already held two meetings, and have as yet come to no determination. The friends and enemies of the cause are waiting in anxious suspense. The latter have great fears, the former great hopes of the result.

EDINBURGH, January 2, 1872.

MAC.

P. S.—I may mention that the ladies yesterday gained admission to the Royal Infirmary or Edinburgh Hospital, a favourable resolution having been passed at a meeting of contributors. The resolution however is under protest.

LATELY some gushing seniors have been observed promenading the street, and earnestly discussing "woman's rights," eloquently informing their companions of the concessions they were willing to make.—We hope a mutual understanding will be the result.

College News.

WE make the following extract from a letter received from J. J. Cameron, M. A., a graduate of Dalhousie, who is now studying theology in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario:

"Queen's College still tenaciously maintains its ground notwithstanding the late hail storm of criticism by which it has been visited. It claims to be the oldest College in Canada, and entitled for more reasons than one to the grateful remembrance of the past, and the generous support of the present. It has a staff of five Professors in the Arts, and two in Theology. The students in Arts last year numbered twenty five, and four in Theology; there is an increase this year in both faculties. The Medicals last year numbered thirty eight. Previous to this year all the faculties met in the same building, this year a separation has taken place; the Medicals having now a separate building, which is found to be a decided improvement upon the old arrangement."

He also states that the students contemplate issuing a magazine in connection with the University. We wish them success in their enterprise.

ONE of the most remarkable signs of progress in this age, is the desire of the Eastern nations to receive the full-grown civilization of the West, which was cradled among them. The Japanese especially, are reaching out their hands eagerly for the education which has been introduced among them, by their contact with American civilization. Japanese scholars are acquiring a knowledge of the English language, and American text-books of science are being introduced among them. The *College Courant* contains an extract from a letter received by the publishers of Barker's Chemistry, at Hartford, New Haven, from the professor of chemistry at Fukuwi, Japan, which gives some idea of the condition of education there. We copy part of it:—

"I have about one hundred and sixty students in chemistry who study English also. About fifty more hear lectures on chemistry, learning only the symbols, names of the elements, and a few necessary English scientific words. There are two very good interpreters and teachers of English here; and about five hundred scholars in the Chinese and Japanese departments, beside those in the scientific and English department."

A reform movement is also going on in China with regard to education. Though all attempts to introduce Western science and modes of teaching into the Imperial College at Peking, where the doctrines of Confucius are still taught, have proved unavailing, yet a movement is now on foot to send bands of young Chinamen to America for education. This, it is to be hoped, is but the stirring of the dry bones of their effete civilization, which will result in a new life for the nation, and prepare the way for the downfall of heathenism.

THE Juniors are improving in Classics. One of the cleverest, a few days ago, wished to compliment a Senior and saluted him, "Rex hominorum." The title may have been appropriate, but the Latin was somewhat faulty.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will *Alpha* please send us his real name, as we do not accept any communication without the name of the author.

Since last issue business letters have been received from the following persons: Rev. A. Glendinning, H. A. Bayne, B. A., A. G. Russell, B. A., J. G. MacGregor, B. A., G. J. Graham, and R. S. Copeland.

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