

Dalhousie Gazette.

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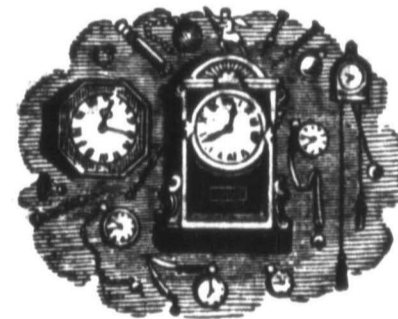
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DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

ORA ET LABORA.

Vol. VII.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 5, 1874.

No. 2.

[FOR THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.]

THE LAST GREETING.

(From the German of Julius Stern.)

On the Rhine, a boat sways to and fro;
It bears a youthful Knight,
His heart is heavy, deep his woe,
He sings to his zither light.
"Adieu! Adieu! thou green clothed strand,
My vine abounding native land,
Adieu! thou sweet and fair one."

He throws a leaflet in the air,
A greeting last of all.
"Ye winds, now take it in your care,
At her feet then let it fall.
In the sunset yonder castle see,
There dwells a maiden dear to me
Among the clustering grape vines.

"With her blue eyes' bewitching glance,
My heart she long since won,
Yet, but my sorrow to enhance,
The golden net was spun.
Since love for love I have not found,
Do I from thee, my native ground,
Become a wandering stranger.

"God keep thee safe, thou rare sweet maid!
God keep thee safe from sorrow!
My mem'ry from thy heart may fade,
Perhaps ere dawns the morrow;
My body leaves its native shore,
With thee my heart is evermore,
Thou rose bud 'mong the grape vines."

The Stream flows on, the fresh'ning breeze
The canvas makes expand;
From out her bower, the maiden sees
Him leave his native land.
She hears his song without a word,
It wakens no responsive chord,
In that young joyous bosom.

UBERSETZER.

[FOR THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.]

OUR EDINBURGH LETTER.

EDINBURGH, November 2nd, 1874.

DEAR GAZETTE:—This afternoon, Session 1874-5 of
Edinburgh University was formally and publicly opened
with an address by Principal Sir Alexander Grant, Bart.
L.L.D. By two o'clock, the appointed hour for meeting,
Queen Street Hall was completely filled with students and
spectators: for the Inauguration ceremony is always popular

in this literary city. The first thing that struck me, as I
approached the place of meeting was, that Edinburgh Un-
iversity, like Dalhousie, is unable to hold its Convocations
within its own walls. Is it not strange that such extensive
College buildings cannot afford a hall large enough for this
purpose? The second thing that struck me as I entered was
a pea. These convenient missiles were flying about as if
animated, confined for the most part to the body of the Hall,
which was reserved for the students, but also soaring occa-
sionally to the gallery where sat visitors interested in the
University. Woe to the bald head whose shining crest was
anywhere conspicuous! It immediately became the target
for a score of pellets. It next occurred to me that the
students were outrageously demonstrative. On the slightest
provocation, or without any apparent reason, they would
laugh, groan, stamp, clap, whistle, shout, sing, and go through
the most absurd vocal performances. To the din of a nur-
sery they added the clamour of a battle and the discordance
of stringed instruments out of tune. Yet who knows, dear
GAZETTE, but that Dalhousie students would be just as
vehement in their demonstrations and constitute themselves
just as thorough a band of Bedlamites, if they had the
numbers from which springs a sense of security to themselves
and a feeling of defiance to others?

At the hour indicated, the Principal, followed by several
eminent literary friends of the University, and most of the
Professors of the different Faculties, entered the room, and
ascended the platform. They met with an enthusiastic
reception by the students. As they advanced one by one
they were severally hissed or cheered according to their
popularity: Professor Blackie, the celebrated Greek scholar
receiving the greatest applause. The Principal took the
chair, and Professor Charteris opened the meeting with a
short prayer which was loudly applauded and encored.
Sir Alexander Grant, then commenced his address. Perhaps
no man could be placed in a more trying position. Every
sentence, almost every clause, is sure to receive some dem-
onstration from the students: the welcome parts cheered, the
unwelcome hissed, the dubious received in different ways
according to circumstances. Now a man can't praise and
flatter in every word he utters, yet as soon as he says any-
thing in the least distasteful, however true, a clamour arises
which is simply indescribable. All desire good humour, cer-
tainly, but nevertheless it must be peculiarly trying to the
nerves of the speaker. Sir Alexander Grant, however seemed
in no way put out. He smiled when the students were more
than usually vehement, stroked his moustache complacently
when they hissed, till they chose to stop, and would never
seek to make himself heard till his audience decided to hear
him. I suppose he knew he might as well try to sweep the
Atlantic away with a broom as raise his voice in the midst of
the din so as to be understood. His address was admirable
though little of it I suppose would be interesting to Dalhousie
students—£70,000, he stated were now available for Univer-
sity purposes, the result partly of bequests, and partly of
contributions, by different classes of society. With these

funds it was proposed, (1) to provide proper laboratories, classrooms and museums for the Medical Faculty, (2) to provide a hall for University Convocations and meetings, (3) to improve the Class-rooms of the Faculties of Theology Law and Arts, and add new ones, (4) to make additional space for the Library, (5) to decorate the North front of the College. Then I thought, dear GAZETTE, of a University in a land we wot of, wher Laboratories and Museums, Halls, and good Classrooms, Library provisions and Architectural decorations are unknown; where a donation of £70,000, would be a Godsend, bringing down forever upon the giver the benedictions of grateful alumni. The learned Principal then dived into the statistics of the University. Last year the number of matriculated students was 1930. Of late years the increase has been chiefly in the Medical Faculty. Though more students matriculate each year in Arts than in Medicine, they seldom remain for any length of time. Clearly the curriculum laid down for the degree does not meet the views of the public. Of Arts' students, five-sixths belong to (Scotland, of Medicals three-fifths belong to other countries. Last year, no less than 41 were from the Colonies.) The Principal next compared the rewards for scholarship given in Edinburgh with the inducements held out by the great English Universities, and declared the College to be poorly-endowed. (O Dalhousie! would that you were thus "poorly-endowed"! In Oxford and Cambridge, a percentage amounting to no less than £20 Stg., falls to each student, per annum: in Trinity College, Dublin, £67: in Edinburgh £12. * * * Sir Alexander Grant, then gave his idea of what the Art Faculty should be. He would like to see a lower degree attainable in two Sessions, with considerable choice of subjects. He considered that examinations should be partly oral, and these oral parts held in public: that the system of rewards should be put on a better footing; that the length of the Arts Session should be increased, and that students should be allowed some liberty in the choice of their teachers. After alluding feelingly to the death of Prof. Cosmo Jones, and the resignation of Prof. Hughes Bennett, and addressing a few words to the students with regard to the Rectoral elections, asking them not to do to death with clamour, nor sacrifice, as do certain African tribes, whom they might select, and bestowing an encomium upon Sir William Stirling Maxwell, the present Rector, he sat down amid prolonged applause, flushed and perspiring but doubtless greatly relieved. I cannot describe to you the criticisms bestowed upon his words, but will give you a few samples.

Prin.—"Nor can we forget good old Mr. Brown." Students burst out singing "John Brown's body." Prin.—"I am not going to advise you whom to chose for your Rector." Students—"You'd better not." Prin.—"but I want you to promise." Students—"We will! We will!" Prin.—"I am speaking now of the past." Voice—"Come to the present then." Prin.—"I think an easier degree should be attainable in Arts." Voice—"I quite agree with you." When Sir Alexander Grant had shown the nobility of Scotland to have contributed about £5000, the titled aristocracy were vehemently hissed for allowing the Merchants and Bankers to contribute almost twice as much: when the clergy were mentioned as giving £667, they were likewise freely hissed for so small a sum: but when the Ladies' contribution, albeit only of about £600, was announced, the cheers, stamping and applause were dreadful and deafening.

But, dear GAZETTE, this is as much as your readers will care to know about the Inauguration Ceremony of Edinburgh University. As it consists only of an opening prayer, an address, and the benediction, and as none of the students were dressed in their College robes, the Convocation was not nearly so formal or imposing as in Dalhousie. Tomorrow

the Professors severally open their classes with introductory lectures and addresses, and thus commences the Winter Session 1874-5.

H.

TRAVELLING WITHOUT LUGGAGE.

As students, we are settled in Halifax, with little time for excursions. But we ignore the slow process of being in only one place at a time. Accordingly, we live every day among the classic scenes of Greece and Italy, reason with the abstract African Lord Bishop, or try for some anchorage to hold against the tides of Psychological speculations. And since the opening of Classes, we have often snatched stray minutes for a flying visit home, or to live again every feeling of some school boy quarrel. These tours of fancy form a most profitable diversion, whether they tuck up the cheek with a smile, or trail down the brow with a frown. Then, as a pastime, let us away to New Hampshire, the Switzerland of America.

We pass the island-speckled lakes, September jewels of gold set in ground work of silver, and "climb the trackless Mountain all unseen." Scott would immortalize the savage scenery of the White mountains, as he might find many places where

"Huge terraces of granite black, afforded rude and cumbered track
Far from the Mountain hoar,
Hurled headlong in some might of fear, when yelled the wolf and fled
the deer,
Loose crags had toppled o'er."

But the beauties of New Hampshire, instead of gracing poetry, figure on the Yankee Speculator's Chart as "pasture lands, wood lots, mill sites with the rights, privileges, and appurtenances thereof."

Before going hither just glance at the celebrated Notch. Think of looking down into a ship a quarter of a mile deep, by ten miles in length, and you have a pretty correct idea of its southern approach, as seen from Mt. Willard. She will never be launched, however, till time reaches its flood and begins to ebb into eternity. The dark recesses of the Notch itself resemble nothing on earth more closely than Tennyson's "path of duty," through whose long gorge we must win our upward paths to the far light, with toil of heart and knees and hands, till we scale the toppling crags and reach the high tableland.

One great advantage of having left our corporeal existence behind, is that we may now bound to the top of Mount Washington with neither expense nor delay, an experience directly opposite to that meted out by the local Express Companies. One way of getting up *bodily* is to pay five dollars, and hold three hours to the back of a nag, whose sad countenance adds another testimony to the common experience that it is hard to climb to eminence while curbed beneath an arbitrary oppressor. These horses are very sure footed so long as the bridle path is on the friendly side of perpendicular. Also the lower branches of the traveller are cased in high stirrups to prevent his "scraping acquaintance" with rocks which project into the way, and invite him to study the *point* of a solid angle. Still, whoever commits his life to such brute agency shows great disregard for "probabilities," or entire confidence in a Life Insurance Company. But at the worst this mode of travel is an ingenious combination, enabling inexperienced youths to dispose of their money, to suffer penance, and to commit suicide by a single operation.

There are other ways to ascend, for American skill has constructed a ladder or cog-wheel railway, and those who

prefer may rise smoothly through the cold clouds by means of heat.

Yet, "if you love the haunts of nature" you should climb on foot, and climb alone that you may the better watch the changes of prospect, widening till distinctness is lost as the eye wanders over whole States. You will feel sensations in limb and sole which equal pleasure with a negative sign, but you will be more than repaid when you finally succeed in putting Washington beneath you. Your flushed cheek is fanned by a breeze which has met no such elevation since it swept the Alps; nor shall it again find object for sport after pulling your locks till it ruffle the fur on the grizzly bear stalking amid the snow of the Rocky Mountains. You quench your kindled thirst at a spring as pure and cold as Shakespeare's "icicle that's curdled by the frost from purest snow, and hangs on Dian's temple." This fountain, rising from the very top of New England's loftiest pinnacle, appears to be *above* the laws of Hydrostatics. Like many a foolish young man escaping restraint, this stream starts on its downward career at a running jump, hurries through the country, snatching a kiss from every blooming beauty along the path, enters towns and cities, always gaining in defilement, nor regards the loss of cool purity, until, in heated pollution, it terminates its course near Hell Gate.*

The upper part of the mountain shoots above the vegetable kingdom. The rocks are entirely naked, not having even such a covering of moss as adorns our venerable college pile. No Indian would ascend beyond the limit of shrubs, lest his spirit should be doomed to wander a ghost forever among the gloomy caverns he had dared to profane. The modern lip curls with contempt at the mere mention of such superstition. But if the Indian had undue veneration, have not we drifted to the opposite extreme, and degenerated beneath respect for the monuments of Omnipotent handiwork?

Washington has a perpendicular height of a mile and a quarter, and from this masthead the view is of course extensive, but not minute, grand rather than beautiful. The changes wrought by day and night and atmospheric influences are very marked. Now lazy clouds creep heavily about the lower hills shedding such tears as make earth rejoice. In time they spread out and form a level gray ocean, only broken by a few islands of rock. Thus they may sleep for some hours as still as if the idea of motion were a myth. But soon a current of air disturbs the downy sea. The mist is curdled into masses, rolled wildly up against the summits, and splintered into spray. Nature has unveiled and we may look once more on her granite features. As we admire the lamb-white upper surface of a vapory billow, and know that all beneath is black with storms, we are reminded that Heaven always looks on the bright side.

Sunset, too, is magnificent. The tumbling clouds take more than rainbow hues, while the shadows of the mountains march out over Maine, on and on, till the dark form of Washington may be seen rising beyond Portland—an actual shadow on the sky.

But the deepest impression of all is produced by looking down on the world at midnight. I know what feelings arise as one clings to a trembling craft tossed by the rude sport of ocean. I have drawn the long breath while shooting the crazy Long Sault. I have stood by Niagara and beheld the young St. Lawrence slide out of his quiet Erie bed, start from sleep, draw over himself a white sheet, throw up his pale arms in convulsions, and, while the land trembled at the accident, run sobbing away to pour out his complaints to his old father Ocean. None of these, however, fill with such solemn awe as to stand a solitary sentinel over a sleeping world. The sound of the torrent and the moan of the forest

* The stream enters the Connecticut river and so reaches Long Island Sound when the tide sets towards Hell Gate, near New York.

are hushed in distance. The stillness can almost be felt. You scarce dare to try your voice lest it has lost its power. The silence is only equalled by the vastness, and that is overwhelming. Strike out a tangent, and the earth will spin beneath it. The atmosphere above is so rare and pure that the stars shine with unusual brilliancy from a deepened blue. The heavens look disproportionately large. On every side you look down to the horizon. Earth seems dissolving into sky. The world is contracting to a mere foot-ball, or to Newton's cubic inch. Reason is disposed to throw down the reins as you fancy you can feel the motion of the globe and hear the rushing wings of flying Time.

But, we have been wandering long enough, so now, like Uriel gliding down to Paradise on a sunbeam, let us, with imagination for a pony, translate ourselves back to our neglected bodies and resume literal existence.

W.

We hear complaints from many of the students who have been engaged in teaching in some of the counties last summer, on account of their Provincial Grants being less this term than usual. Under the new law, the teachers receive this money, not in proportion to the number of days the school was in Session during the term, or even to the number of children taught, but in proportion to the average attendance for the County in which they may have been engaged.

We believe this law was never intended to operate against the teacher. The aim of it no doubt was partly to insure better attendance in the different schools, but, as every one knows it, did not accomplish this. The school section was expected to make good any deficiency in the salary of the teacher resulting from irregular attendance. In a very few cases this has been done, but in too many instances teachers in some of our Counties have lost considerably by it.

To prevent this state of matters, the Provincial Grant like the County monies should be payable to the Trustees, who should become responsible for the whole of the teacher's salary. Teachers should engage only on those conditions. It is hardly fair that the teachers, whose salaries even at best are anything but remunerative, should lose on account of the negligence of others, as the matter of attendance is one over which they have little or no control.

We call the attention of our readers to our Edinburgh Letter on the first page. It is from the pen of J. C. Herdman, a graduate of last term, and for three years one of the editors of the GAZETTE. We wish him every success in his studies, and hope to hear from him more than once during the winter.

THERE are more than one hundred and twenty students attending Dalhousie this winter. They are classified as follows: Medicals 32; Arts' students of the first year, more than 40; of the second 26; of the third 16; of the fourth 5; in all about 14' more than we had last winter. Our readers will observe that there are nearly as many students in our Alma Mater this winter, as in all the other Colleges in the Province, including Sackville, put together.

Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 5, 1874.

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Our Subscribers would aid us greatly, without giving themselves any additional trouble, by sending in their subscriptions without delay. We assure those who owe us two or three subscriptions, that we shall not object in the least to their clearing their consciences by paying us the same in full.

In our previous issue we referred with much pleasure to the increase in our Library. This now has on its shelves over sixteen hundred volumes, and, as was said by Principal Ross, its value must be estimated not by the number but by the quality of its books. The care and taste displayed in selection are most praiseworthy. Still, it may be permitted us to give a hint of our wants to those who may hereafter have the task of making needful additions. Our library as it stands is well supplied with works of history; Hume and Smollett, Froude, Macaulay, Gibbon and nearly all the other standard historians find worthy place on its shelves. But unfortunately to read the works of any one of these masters is no small task, (albeit a most pleasant one,)—a task for which we can but ill spare the time. A knowledge of history is nevertheless imperatively necessary to every student. But this can be more easily acquired by the perusal of some of those admirable essays which compress into the space of thirty or forty pages the history of whole periods, giving in clear and comprehensive language the fruits of many years' study. We may safely leave the task of choosing such abridgements to those on whom the business of selection has hitherto devolved. We might just mention as examples the three volumes of "Historical Studies" by Edward A. Freeman, and the same number of Critical and Biographical Essays by A. Hayward. These will serve to indicate a class of works which we believe would be of great benefit to every student.

Our Professors have kindly furnished the Reading Room with several numbers of the Athenæum and of the English Quarterlies. All students who have literary tastes are thus enabled during their leisure hours to enjoy a rare treat. On behalf of these we thank the Professors for this token of their interest in our welfare.

At the General Students' Meeting held on the 6th ult., a communication was received from the Young Men's Christian Association of this City, suggesting that a committee might be appointed to consult with their committee, in regard to the opening of their Rooms to the students of the University. The suggestion was acted upon, and in a few days it was made known that the Rooms were open to the students on the sole condition that they would make as much use of them as possible. Such generosity speaks for itself, and needs no comment. Apart from the value of the gift, and it cannot be over estimated, there is the spirit that prompted it and makes it doubly welcome. We know that we express the feelings of the whole College when we sincerely thank the Association for their liberality.

THE Medical Faculty have again shown that they are the right men in the right place. As is well known, the portion of the College set apart for their use is utterly inadequate for their requirements. With pluck and energy worthy of the men, they have resolved to erect a building for their own use; and to this end have at different times engaged popular lecturers to give a course of public lectures. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings Mr. DeCordova, the well-known humorist, lectured for them in Temperance Hall, and, on the preceding Tuesday, all the Students of the College were provided with free tickets for both evenings. A vote of thanks was immediately passed, and three cheers given for the Medical Faculty and their gentlemanly secretary, Dr. H. A. Gordon.

A few years ago the school of medicine was started by some of the leading medical men of the City. Since then the number of students has been steadily increasing. The degree is recognised by the best American Colleges; and by the University of Edinburgh, perhaps the best in the world. The Professors have given much of their time and thought to the work, receiving no salary but the fees of students, a sum barely sufficient to cover necessary expenses. Surely, this is not as it should be. We call the attention of the wealthy men of Halifax to the facts we have stated. We call upon the New Assembly about to be elected, to do their duty in this respect. We know our voice is weak, but we hope that, acting on the side of justice, it may produce some effect.

A MEDICAL says that the gas light "hurts his fine large eyes." He has evidently given Reading Book No. 3 a careful perusal.

THE Provincial Legislature has been dissolved. This event has been expected by all persons taking any interest in politics for a considerable length of time. As the Elections are to come off in less than a fortnight, of course the various Committees, Caucuses, and all the other paraphernalia of election tactics are at work in all parts of the Country. Of the various platforms enunciated by the opposing parties we know but little, and we must acknowledge, care less. The only question before the country of which we can here take any notice is the question of Higher Education. The names of the Candidates in this County who have been selected to represent the two parties have already been made known to the public through the daily press. With the political merits and demerits of these gentlemen we have in these columns nothing to do. We are glad however to notice among them the name of one of our own graduates, Robert Sedgwick Esq., of the class of 1867. Believing that in this good City, and in other parts of the County there are many persons to whom both parties are alike indifferent, and to whom the only concern in the coming contest is that the members selected be gentlemen of character and ability;—to all such we will heartily recommend Mr. Sedgwick as a person in every way capable of attending not only to the small and petty concerns usually engrossing the time of our Local Legislators, but also to the more important questions of Higher Education and "Maritime Union," now plainly visible above the political horizon.

It was a remark made by Mr. Thomas Hughes, when on a visit to the United States, that among all the distinguished collegians with whom he conversed not one had any thoughts of entering upon a political life. It was not so, he added, in England. There, scarcely one of the first-class passmen at Oxford or Cambridge has not, as the goal of his ambition, the Premiership of his native land. As a consequence, there has been an array of scholarship and disciplined intellect of the highest order, such as has, perhaps, never been equalled. Peel, Gladstone, Lewis, and Lowe, all obtained first-class honors at Oxford; while the sister University has contributed out of the first rank of her classical tripos, Macaulay, Praed, and Sir Vernon Harcourt. The result of this can be perceived by a glance at the magnificent series of reforms, based and carried out upon the soundest principles of economic and social science. Even in the neighboring Republic, where the influence too often wielded by blatant and ignorant demagogues furnishes a sad commentary upon Mr. Hughes remark, high scholarship has not been wanting in the councils of the nation. Jefferson, John Adams, and his son John Quincy Adams, Calhoun, Webster, Seward, Chase, and Sumner, all were men cultivated by a collegiate training.

In this young and vigorous nation we have need of such men to direct the affairs of state. The tendency in all new countries is to entrust the Government to individuals so embarrassed and hampered by their private business as to be unable to give the time and thought requisite for the full and deliberate discussion of the important questions that must of necessity arise. This of course comes in great part from the

difficulty of finding men of culture and leisure willing to embark upon the troublous sea of political life; but also in a measure from a want of due appreciation for scholarship and collegiate training. Though most of our graduates are compelled to enter one or other career of business or professional life, yet a few can be found willing to devote some portion of their time to the management of public affairs. Such men should be sought out and encouraged by the public. We trust they will make a commencement by electing Mr. Sedgwick.

OUR ADVERTISEMENTS.

ALL students who want good note books should get them at A. & W. MACKINLAY'S, Granville St. See their advertisement, 1st page.

For books on general subjects we know no place in the City better than W. GOSSIP'S, Granville St. He has also a great variety of Text Books. Advertisement, page 2.

At MISS KATZMAN'S, Granville St., all the Text Books required for the Art's Course may be purchased at the lowest rates.

We would like all students who want good stationery, to try T. P. CONNOLLY'S, at the corner of George and Granville Streets.

For Newspapers and Periodicals go to MORTON'S, No 195 Hollis Street.

Several students wear spectacles. If they want new ones, we would advise them to call at BENNETT'S. Dont go home at Christmas without a pair for your uncle, and a ring for somebody else.

Writing Desks, Photograph Albums, and Fancy Articles of all kinds, can be cheaply purchased at BUCKLEY'S English & American Book Store, 101 Granville St.

All old students know the "BEE HIVE" 114 Upper Water Street. If they give it their custom in the tailoring line we can guarantee them the full value of their money. Advertisement 4 page.

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PUNCTUALITY.

PERHAPS a few words on this subject may not be out of place, and as they will have reference to one or two faults we have noticed among our fellow-students, we hope the said students will pay attention to them, and govern themselves accordingly. Some years ago, our noble and most justly esteemed Queen, who is always sure to keep appointments, and to be at the place fixed upon just at the time she names, arranged with a certain artist (whom, out of pity, we shall not name), to have her photograph taken. An hour was named, and with it came Her Majesty to the studio. But the artist was not there; he had let something interfere with his appointment, and when he arrived the Queen was gone. Now what did his carelessness cost him?—certainly the Queen's favor, and possibly a fortune.

To apply this to ourselves—we are sorry to see that some of our students are at fault in this respect. They are late

for everything. You may see one of them of a morning two or three minutes after the class has gone in (and notice, it is only two or three minutes,) rush up to the college door, more like some wild animal than a rational being, seize the first dark object that comes in his way—possibly mistaking in his haste the Janitor's duster for a gown—knot it round his throat, and, with cheeks flushed after his violent exertions, dash into the class-room with a bang of the door that makes the Professor "take his measure" even to the eighth of an inch. Presently, supposing the class to be "mathematics" of the Second Year, he may be asked to turn up some logarithm, when lo! he finds that in his haste, he has forgotten to bring his "Tables." The poor delinquent scarcely dares to raise his head, but though he does not see it, he feels that cold glance of the Professor—one of mingled pity and reproof—piercing him through and through.

It is the same old story at the Debating Club. He comes in late, thus missing two of the best speeches of the evening, viz.: those of the Opener and Respondent. If the meeting begins to flag, (which we are very glad to say is seldom the case in our club), and the President sees fit to call on the members present by name, for their opinion on the subject under discussion, our worthy friend slowly gets upon his feet, and after wasting about five minutes in meaningless apologies, finally comes to the conclusion that, as he has not heard the whole discussion, he is not in a position to give any opinion whatever on the subject. He is afraid, forsooth, to express his most weighty sentiments without sufficient deliberation and mature thought. He might commit himself. (Let us add just here, in parenthesis, that *much* weight as the opinion of such a man would likely have in any case, we will not hold him responsible for what he may say, and we will be quite willing to forgive his little faults, if, indeed, we happen to listen so attentively as to notice them.)

Just look for a moment at this youth's line of conduct. *First*, he apologizes. Now, to say that an apology is an abomination, is but very faintly to express our opinion of it. It is detestable, and the more so from the fact that it is a habit rarely cured. Some one has said, and said truly, "apology is only egotism wrong side out. Nine times out of ten, the first thing a man's companion knows of his shortcomings is from his apology. It is exceedingly presumptuous, on your part, to suppose that your small failures are of so much consequence that you must make a talk about them." *Secondly*, after thus wasting our time, he tells us he has nothing to say. We ask, honestly, why does he come to our meetings at all? What good can he possibly get? The members who take part get none, nay more, they lose by his presence, for he wastes their valuable time. Fellow-students, if you come at all, come in time, and come prepared, to take part. Though it may seem hard at first, we advise every Freshman to begin this very evening (the meeting is at 7.30. P. M.). As soon as you have finished reading the GAZETTE, (for we suppose we could not reasonably expect it before), away home, and think a little over the subject for debate, be in your place in good time, and express your views in the best way you can. We feel certain that every one who will follow this piece of advice,—so often given before, but as often neglected,—will never regret it.

Office-bearers, especially, should always strive to be "on time." Suppose the President or Secretary to delay only five minutes, when he does come in, he will probably contrive to waste a few minutes more in saying something like this: "I am very sorry to be late, but really the time slipped away without my knowing it, I hope you will excuse it." Now it does not appear clear to us that such an apology ought to be accepted. Had the late-comer only lost five minutes it would have been his concern, but in this case, the "five minutes" must be multiplied by the thirty or so who may be present,

as each has lost five minutes: so that two hours and a half of useful time have, in this case, been sacrificed by his want of punctuality.

Fellow-student! will you pardon the rambling way in which these few ideas have been expressed. They have been written hastily, but with an earnest wish that they may do some good. We assure you, your Professors and class-mates observe whether you are in your place at the proper time, or disturb the class by coming in late,—whether you are prompt with your answer when called upon,—whether you are, in short, what you ought to be, and they form their estimate of you accordingly. It is hard to break ourselves off from any habit; but the habit of being late is one which, when acquired, is very difficult to get rid of. If you find that this one is growing on you, we beg you to tear yourself clear of it at once, lest, by and by, you find yourself so bound that you are all but powerless to get free.

CANARIES.

MANY tender hearts pity the dear little birds, caught by cruel men, and shut up in small cages. We can fully appreciate such sympathy, if they have been nurtured in the open fields, or in the green wood, and subsequently confined. But the heart is not hard, which feels no sympathy, when it sees them living in the only home they ever knew. Who will say, that they do not in their own way feel "There's no place like home?" Nearly every Halifax home has one or more of these pets. On this account, we purpose to write a few words concerning them.

The Canary is generally supposed to have been first found on the islands of the same name. A ship sailing thence to Leghorn, was wrecked on the coast of Elba. Several Canaries, which voyagers even at that early time admired, and were taking home, escaped from the wreck to the mainland. Finding the climate agreeable they remained and bred, until disturbed by bird-catchers. France and Germany then became the adopted homes of the fugitives. Their enemies pursued the ones left behind with so much vigor, that after a short time, not a single specimen could be found on the islands.

Much interest is taken by the English people in these sweet songsters. For many years, annual Canary-shows have been held, at which the competition for prizes is keen. The prize birds always command a ready sale and high price.

The birds when originally discovered were mostly gray. Climate, food, and a variety of causes, have produced the colours of the white, gray, green, and brown cage birds. Their plumage, as that of many other species, and the fur of animals, becomes thick, and light in colour in proportion to the coldness of the climate. The healthiest birds have a blackish gray or grayish brown colour, on the upper part of body; on the remainder a greenish yellow. The light coloured with red eyes are not so healthy. The reddish brown, with grayish brown eyes are the rarest. They live longer than the latter; though, not as long as the blackish gray. Symmetry of form and colour greatly increases their value, those being thought handsomest whose head, wings and tail are of a yellowish dun.

It is difficult to distinguish the male from the female, and direction without experience is not always a reliable guide. But generally the male's plumage is the brightest and he the largest, having also a brighter yellow around the eye than on any other part of the body.

Purchasers generally choose the tamest birds, but this is not a safe means of selecting. Shy birds are likely to be more valuable than the tame. Besides, when a bird seems very tame there is a probability that it is not well. A fussy,

shy bird, hopping about in the cage, will settle down and become a favourite. Low-toned singers are the sweetest. It is thought that keeping only one bird in a cage, and not within sight of others, is a good way to make birds sing. Repeatedly, I have seen several singers in the same cage, and several within a few feet. It seemed that when one commenced to sing, the others emulously strove to excel him. This lessens the force of the above opinion.

When you choose a bird William Kidd advises: "Sacrifice colour to accomplishments; you will never repent it. Nature seldom gives rare beauty and great accomplishments united." Canaries are very sagacious. All papers and books on this subject contain anecdotes which show this quality. We had a little bird which from hearing the parrot say "pretty poll" learned the word "pretty," and as a regular part of his song, one might hear "pretty—pretty—pretty—pretty," in a voice almost, if not altogether, as distinct as when spoken by a person. It is worth while to live as sociably as possible with the birds; they notice any attention paid to them. An experienced person referring to their social habits, writes: "I have known little pets fly all in a flutter to meet and greet me, when really I thought they would have quite forgotten that they ever knew me; and only let one nurse a wounded bird and see if it forgets the benefits received." It is painful to those interested in birds, to see one of the little pets left without companions in a deserted room, at a cold window, where it remains all the day shivering and vainly trying to keep out the cold.

A newly purchased singer, though brought to its new home in the most careful and gentle manner, may not at first sing. Let a light be placed before the cage, whistle a lively air, and the chances are that you will have a musical rival. The object may also be accomplished by coaxing him with a little chickweed or a hemp seed. He may also, like a sensitive person, become lonesome, and show no inclination to eat. A very simple remedy is to place him in a cage with an abundant supply of food and water. If, after several hours, he has not eaten, take him gently in your hand and dip him in water, then replace in the cage. The drenched little fellow is no sloven and will immediately commence to arrange his disordered plumage. When he has completed his toilet, the strange surroundings will be forgotten, his appetite sharpened by the bath, and he will commence to eat.

The owners of birds very often do not pay any attention to them till 10 or 11 A. M., or still worse, leave them to the care of servants. Such practices ought to be condemned. The servant thinks them an unnecessary trouble, and is indifferent to Dickie's comfort and safety. Consequently, birds are frequently lost through the carelessness of servants.

A bath dish full of cool, clean water, should be given early every morning, and the bird supplied with fresh seeds. The seed-box should be cleaned out daily; the husks of seed blown away, and the good seed returned, with new, to the box. Birds will not eat seeds which mice have touched, so care must be taken to keep the seed in a place where mice cannot reach it.

In a cage where there is a large number of birds, much pleasure is occasioned, if a few shells are placed in the bath dish. The birds will stand on the edges of the shells, flutter about, plunge into the water, and otherwise show their delight. The drinking water should also be changed daily.

Hemp seed when given—and there should not be more than one-third of this kind in winter, and still less in summer—should be cracked, as young or weak birds cannot break the hard shell. A friend had a beautiful singer. Probably it swallowed a small hemp seed without being able to break the shell. The bird stopped singing. Then something seemed to obstruct the passage of the throat; it could take no food, and after suffering for a few days died. The body

was opened and a hemp seed was found sprouting within. This seed is very much liked and there can be no harm done, if it be slightly cracked.

Another way in which the comfort of the birds should be sought, is by covering the cage at night. This protects them from any cold draughts, and, if in the sitting room, from the light.

In small cages where there are only two roosts, it is best to place them either at right angles to one another, or parallel without one being directly over the other.

When buying a new cage, care should be taken to choose one—if it is to be all wire, with good fastenings at the bottom. At Mr. Bent's, Barrington Street, a very simple and effective mode for fastening can be seen. A small piece of tin slides on the two wires between which the hook fastens. When the hooks are in proper position this piece of tin slides down and prevents the hook from going backward. Thus the bottom and top are firmly secured together.

This has been written not for those who know more than the writer upon the subject, but the real object will be gained if any one is influenced to take a deeper interest in the "blythe spirits." "Lord," said Isaac Walton, as he listened to the song of a bird, "what music hast thou provided for the saints in heaven, when thou givest bad men such music on earth."

THE DEBATING SOCIETIES.

We have three Debating Societies in the College: the Kritosopian composed of Students of the 3rd and 4th years; the Excelsior embracing the Freshmen and Sophomores; and the Esculapian supported, as its name shows, by the Medicals. These Societies might be made of very great value to Students. No one denies that the power of speaking fluently and correctly is at least useful, and can be brought to perfection only by constant practise. Most of us intend to enter some profession.—Perhaps the majority are looking forward to Law or Divinity as their life work. To these the faculty of easy and fluent speech is indispensable. Its value to Medical Students may not seem so evident. But we ask every Student who has studied out a subject carefully, and then attempted to express his ideas on it in clear and correct language, if he has not invariably found that the accurate knowledge he has gained of his subject by such exercise has more than out-weighed the labour expended. And in this age of public speaking no professional man, or educated man, whatever his employment may be, can wield his proper influence in Society without being able at least to express his opinions in a pleasing and intelligent style. A little thought will convince any that what we have said is true, and the absurd figure many an able man makes of himself when he tries to speak in public, shows that we have rather undervalued than exaggerated the importance of this uncommon acquirement.

Now what do we find the case to be? Out of 25 Juniors and Seniors six attended the last meeting of the Kritosopian Society, and seventy Freshmen and Sophomores send about half that number to the Excelsior. The Medicals show a better appreciation of their Society, and their attendance is as large as could be expected. Strange to say, the persons who do not come are the very men who would get most good by coming. Unable to express the simplest ideas correctly, they are ashamed to speak before their fellow students, and stay at home waiting for inspiration that will never come. No wonder that we have ministers whose sermons act like opium; and lawyers, to listen to whose speeches is torture.

To derive the full benefit from these societies, the subject

should be well selected. It should not be too wide; there is little danger of its being too narrow. It should concern something of permanent interest or great present importance. Perhaps its discussion would not be of less benefit if it were chosen from some of our regular studies. Every student who intends to speak should prepare himself for it by reading and thought. He should not only store his memory with facts and deductions based on them, but should arrange them in proper order, and leave nothing for the moment of speaking but their expression in words. If he wishes to exercise himself in expressing his thoughts as they are formed, he has sufficient scope for doing so in answering the arguments of opponents. His own speech should be carefully prepared. Two hours weekly spent in this way are well employed. The critic has a most important duty to perform. The common opinion seems to be that the critic is appointed for the express purpose of cracking bad jokes at the expense of the speakers. At all events this is the common practice. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The critic is appointed to find fault. If he can hold up mistakes to ridicule, so much the better. But for the sake of those who listen to him he should avoid straining after effect by means of feeble jokes and far fetched puns. We believe it would add greatly to the interest of his remarks if he were allowed to criticise the arguments as well as the language and gestures of the speakers. We are glad to be able to note an improvement of late in the respect. We had the privilege last Friday night of listening to the criticism in the Excelsior Society and we have seldom heard a better. Though not so thorough as we would like, it was just, and humorous, and a great improvement on the ordinary kind.

We do not like fault finding. We offer these opinions merely as suggestions, but we think that the sober reflection of every student will acknowledge their truth. In next issue we intend to give a particular account of one or two of the meetings, and hope to be able to note continued improvement.

Dalhusiensis.

It would be a great convenience if the authorities would place fifteen or twenty additional hooks in the College Hall.

By an inexcusable oversight the names of our Financial Committee were not published in the last No. They will be found on the fourth page.

THE Class in Nat. Phil. were favored with the best description of a lobster we have heard for many a day. On concluding an experiment the Prof. observed: "In this way we could find the Centre of Gravity even of a lobster, and you know he is an animal of many prongs."

Four students are studying for Honours this winter: two in Classics; one in English Language and Literature; and one in Mathematics.

IMPROVED ORTHOEPEY AMONG THE SOPHS.—One of the students of the second year pronounces "Gracchi," "Grassi." A Senior is of the opinion that there must be something "green in his eye."

THE Seniors must be diligent students. They are seldom seen on the streets, rarely at debate, and never at foot-ball.

FOOT-BALL is prosecuted with great vigour this session. To a large number of students this means good health, and clear brains. A little more care and skill, however, might be an improvement, as several persons have been more or less severely injured. We would suggest that the ball, and not the shins of players, is the proper object on which to exercise your toes.

Personals.

C. W. HILTZ, M. D., C. M., is practising at Chester, N.S. WILLIAM CAMERON, B.A., has returned to his Alma Mater to study medicine.

A. W. H. LINDSAY, B. A., after the interval of a year, has resumed his medical studies in Dalhousie.

WALTER S. DOULL, B. A., and JAMES McD. OXLEY, B.A., are also attending classes in the College this winter.

JAMES R. COFFIN, a Sophomore the winter before last, is at his home in P. E. Island.

D. CHISHOLM, M. D., C. M., practises at Port Hawkesbury, Cape Breton.

JAMES WHITMAN, who attended classes in Dalhousie for three years, is studying Theology in Merton College, Oxford.

A. I. TRUMAN, B. A., and J. McKEEN, B. A., are teaching in St. John, N. B.

DONALD McLEOD, B. A., was married during the past summer; and FINLAY McMILLAN, M. D., C. M., a week or two ago. We wish the gentlemen and their partners success and long life. Upon all our graduates we desire to impress the command of Scripture: "Go thou and do likewise."

Who can tell us where R. G. SINCLAIR, a junior in 1872-73, is this winter?

DONALD C. MARTIN, Sophomore of last year, is studying law in Charlottetown, in the office of Robert Shaw, B. A., one of the first graduates of Dalhousie. We wish Mr. Martin every success in the profession he has chosen, and hope to hear from him occasionally.

EXCHANGES.

We have received the following exchanges:

Presbyterian Witness, Halifax; Sun, Truro; Eastern Chronicle, New Glasgow; Casket, Antigonish; American Newspaper Reporter, New York; Vox Humana, Cambridgeport, Mass.; Queen's College Journal, Kingston; Pen and Plow, New York; University Review, Wooster Ohio; Index Niagarensis, Suspension Bridge, New York; and North-Western College Chronicle.

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