



## The Generous Bequest of a Lamented Dalhousian.

**GEORGE W. STAIRS WILLS \$5,000 TO HIS ALMA MATER.**

IT was with a mixture of feelings that I received a formal notification from the executors of the late Lieutenant George W. Stairs that according to his will the Board of Governors of the University had been left the sum of \$5,000. One's admiration and appreciation of his loyalty to his Alma Mater was intensified, but it only added to one's regret that such a fine spirit should have been so suddenly taken from a world where he was rapidly ripening into the full maturity of his powers. This gift is the crowning act of thoughtfulness toward the University of one of her most promising younger sons. His death was a tragedy to his family and his friends, and a definite loss to the world in which he moved and to the University, and it seems a mockery that the University should gain by this loss.

Few young men have gone through Dalhousie who have left a more fixed and agreeable impression on all, whether Faculty or classmates, than George Stairs. Quiet and unassuming and almost retiring, and yet of vigorous independence and initiative, possessed of an air of calm confidence and a winning smile, and endowed with brilliant intellectual gifts, he impressed himself upon all, and a useful, effective and fine manhood was predicted for him. There was something so straightforward and attractive in his personality that many had an affectionate regard for him who really did not know him intimately. Above all he was that very precious thing, a gentleman.

From his college days onward Stairs had always taken a great interest in the University and kept in touch with all its activities. Although he went into business first at Vancouver and then at Montreal, he often visited Halifax and never failed to call at the University in order to see for himself the changes that were taking place. How deep his interest in his Alma Mater was can best be measured by the provision he made for her welfare in his will. His University did not need this to keep him in remembrance; plans were already being considered for some memorial to a noble son who was "The First Dalhousian to fall for Empire," as Professor MacMechan has so aptly put it in the last *Gazette*. He led the line that Dalhousie is sending to the battle front, and her honour and reputation were safe in his hands; and it is the light

thus reflected on her from his untimely death at Langemarck, where he did his part in that action when, as General French said, "Canada saved the day," which it becomes us to perpetuate in fitting memorial.

George Stairs belonged to a family intimately woven into the history of Dalhousie. His grandfather, the late Hon. W. J. Stairs, was a life-long liberal benefactor and friend to the University. His uncle the late Hon. John F. Stairs, was President and one of the most active members of the Board of Governors. To him was due the success of the effort to raise a fund for the inauguration of a department of Engineering and School of Mines in 1902. Major H. B. Stairs, B. A., '91, and LL. B., '93, a cousin of George Stairs, won renown and the D. S. M. at Paardeberg. Another cousin, Gilbert S. Stairs, B. A., '03, was Dalhousie's first Rhodes Scholar. He has the rank of Major in the 87th Grenadier Guards, C. E. F., now preparing to proceed to the front.

The two brothers of George Stairs, Denis, B. E., '09, and John C., B. A., '12, who both distinguished themselves as students are also overseas as Lieutenants in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the former with reinforcements from the 40th Battalion, and the latter in the 25th Battalion. I am told that when war was about to be declared these three brothers conferred and came to the conclusion that it was their duty to fight for the Empire. All honour to them. In addition to Gilbert, four other cousins of these brothers, who are Dalhousians, are already at the front or on their way: Gavin L., Lieutenant in the 14th Battalion, Graham in the 85th, Hugh M. in the R. C. G. A., and Herbert.

Is it not high time that a building or other worthy memorial should be erected in Dalhousie to honour a name so distinguished in our annals, the name of Stairs?

Professor Stewart has been away from us lecturing to Canadian Clubs and Dramatic Societies on "The Tragedy" and Ireland and the War," and other subjects much akin to this. We may be sure that Dr. Stewart left a good impression behind him. It takes a versatile man from Nova Scotia to make an impression on these Upper Canadians but the betting is 100-1 that the impression was made in this case.

## CULT OF KULTUR CLEARLY SHOWN BENEATH VENEER OF NIETZCHE'S WORK.

PROFESSOR STEWART OF DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, CALLS GERMAN AUTHOR "GLITTERING SNAKE" at CANADIAN CLUB, NOV 20TH, 1915.

HAD the small dining-room at the Chateau Laurier, been a concert hall, the sign 'standing room only' would have been posted outside during the Canadian Club luncheon on Saturday. Every available seat was filled and a number of late comers were grouped in the background during the address. Dr. Herbert L. Stewart was the speaker, and his subject Nietzsche—the most talented exponent of the spirit of Prussianism in his opinion.

Dr. Stewart is Irish; and his dry humor, subtle wit, and scathing criticism, kept his audience on the qui vive from start to finish. He is professor of philosophy at Dalhousie University, Halifax, coming to Canada some eighteen months ago after creating a name for himself in the universities of the old land. He was a Lock scholar at Oxford and from there went to Dublin University.

The study of Nietzsche and his work has been Dr. Stewart's hobby, and his interpretation of the famous—or perhaps infamous Prussian's work drew an appreciation from the club which is seldom tendered to their guest.

Dr. Stewart performed a literary autopsy of the Prussian's words and showed that when shorn of the veneer of fascinating language the harsh brutal cult of Kultur lay clearly revealed.

### A GLITTERING SNAKE.

Dr. Stewart classed Nietzsche as one of the anti-moral writers whose vogue has been due to their support of the popular Prussian idea and who have been symptoms though not causes of the present war, characterizing his writings as those of a 'beautiful glittering snake alternatively fascinating and repelling.' He began to write, said the speaker, at a time of crucial decisiveness for his country. The young Prussian nation, fresh from the victories of the Franco-Prussian war stood at the parting of the ways. The humanitarian element tended towards peace, but Nietzsche's writings helped teach them to hold humanity in contempt.

The speaker then paid attention to what he termed the 'perfectly threadbare' subject of German morality and its

(Continued on page 6)

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Business Manager.....J. S. FRASER

## Reporters.

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K. A. BAIRD | R. D. MCCLEAVE  
J. H. MITCHELL | MISS BESSIE HALL  
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WAR makes many changes. The old Campus, once the stamping ground of many a football hero has become the tramping ground of the Dalhousie Overseas Unit. The old Medical building, the home of poker and stiffs, has become the barracks of real, live men fitting themselves for war. The campus re-echoes with the orders of the mechanical soldier and the erstwhile Mortuary reverberates with the notes of the brazen bugle. Khaki has taken the place of the yellow and black. War heroes have taken the place of football heroes. It is a never to be forgotten sight. No Dalhousian past or present should miss it. The squads of soldiers marching up and down in front of the old Red tower in the day time and the myriads of lights that shine from the old Medical Building at night. The Dalhousie Hospital Unit will carry the name of our University to the battlefields of Europe and will return to us covered with glory. We should see that they lack nothing while they are here in our midst. Last year's Dinner to the Dalhousie members of the 2nd Contingent was a great success, why not another to our distinctly Dalhousie Contingent? Perhaps a Smoker would be more apropos! Surely this is a matter for the Student Council and the Alumni. Let them do something.

AFTER a long struggle for some place of relaxation, the students have at last been put in possession of the old Studley homestead. The students are to have the first floor and the janitor, the second floor. Each should gain something from the other. The students' floor has been allotted into Y. M. C. A. office, Reading Room, Gymnasium, etc. It is proposed to vest the government of the building in a committee composed of Representatives of the Senate, Students' Council and Alumni. The committee will have its own officers and regulations. The move is a good one. If the Committee is composed of the right kind of men it should not be long before Dalhousie will have a Students' Union. In the meantime, the Student Union idea will be fostered in the old Homestead and the popularity of the idea is but a question of time. From the Homestead will come the larger idea of a student Union with all its conveniences. We have had that idea before and we have tried to finance such a scheme. Both the idea and the scheme have been in the hands of the wrong kind of men, who, though "Wizards of Finance," have allowed these ideas and schemes to become befogged in get Rich-quick methods. If the Committee do their duty there should be no trouble in widening and expanding the smaller make-shift scheme of the Homestead to the more improved one of the Union. In the meantime the students of the present regime should do their utmost to make the rooms at the Homestead, as cheery and bright as possible. The co-operation of every member of the University is needed to do this. A solid University behind the new Committee is needed. No Kickers need apply.

DON'T forget the Dalhousians in the trenches this year. Xmas is coming and we should not forget the boys who are fighting our battles. A little remembrance from the home-land goes a long way on the day of all days. We have over 450 Dalhousians in Khaki. None of them should be forgotten.

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(Continued from page 2)

THE Gazette is striving to meet popular opinion this year. We are loyal, loyal to the core and optimistic as well. Any pro-German articles must either go across the border or to the waste-paper basket. This is a time when the press should be a Booster and not a Knocker. We are no Knockers. The Gazette has always been loyal, notwithstanding the effusions of some yellow journalists who have managed in former times to get space within its pages.

RATTEE, ex Editor-in-Chief, has joined the Dalhousie Unit. We wish him luck. May he fill his present position as well as he filled his former one.

We are DOING OUR BEST FOR DALHOUSIE, so help us along.

We want the readable Library notes again. There is always place for them in our columns.

Wake up Alumni Executive! Get Busy!

WHAT has become of the Dramatic and Glee Club? Let us grant that after last year's Theatre Night further productions of plays by the students are out of the question. Is there not still a very important function which this society can and should fulfil as a Glee Club? Only once since 1912 has the present Editor-in-chief heard the college songs given in a way chief that could be considered a credit to the student body. That was at the Inter-collegiate Debate in Wolfville in the spring of 1913. On that occasion the singing was worthy of praise, and, if we may accept the word of the Dalhousie debaters, proved a source of inspiration to them. There is nothing like the college songs heartily participated in and the college yell enthusiastically rendered to put the fighting spirit into any of the teams. Yet the way the college songs have been sung in late years has been more depressing than inspiring. Why! When a song is started many of the students don't know the words at all. A Glee Club managed by a strong executive could easily remedy this. Such a club might go further still and get up an excellent Male Chorus for this year. Those who attended the Y. M. C. A. reception and heard the chorus hastily gathered up for that occasion will testify to the truth of that statement. If the combined Dramatic and Glee Club is now defunct, who will become the leader in getting up a distinctively Glee Club?

EDITOR GAZETTE:—Allow me to congratulate you on the high tone of the Gazette. I shall not be ashamed now to put it on the table of any young man looking forward to College.

Dr. MacMechan's appreciation of G. W. Stairs touched a very responsive chord in the heart of his old class mate. Stairs was the soul of honour and sincerity. Though one of the youngest members of his class he was one of its leaders in all its activities, and at the time of graduation was elected permanent President. —(He was a member of Class '08—not '09 as you stated).

OLD CLASS MATE.

## No. 7 STATIONARY HOSPITAL (DALHOUSIE) AID ASSOCIATION

NO 7 Stationary Hospital has been organized under the command of the well-known surgeon, Dr. John Stewart, Lieutenant-Colonel. The formation of this unit was made possible by the existence of a medical college in this city, and had its inception in an offer to the War Office by members of the staff to organize a hospital for overseas service. In addition to a large number of students from Acadia, Dalhousie and Mount Allison Universities, it is thoroughly representative of business life all over the Maritime Provinces.

The hospital will be one of 400 beds, and its personnel consists of 132 Officers, N. C. O's and men and 27 female nurses. Many of them are making great sacrifices in going, and are giving up comfortable livelihoods in order to "do their bit" and help lighten the miseries of war.

This hospital unit is one we will be proud of, and the officers are rapidly bringing it into a high state of efficiency. To supplement their efforts, an Aid Association is being formed with a membership representative of all parts of the country.

An Aid Association has been formed and its work is intended to cover the field not occupied by the Red Cross, which devotes its efforts mainly to the needs of the patients and has put its whole vigorous organization to work for the Unit. This Association will furnish extra necessaries and comforts to increase the efficiency of the men and nurses, and form a clearing-house between the members of the Unit and Home.

An adequate Regimental Fund is also necessary which will be quickly available for emergencies. The unexpected is constantly happening at the front. The friends of the Toronto and McGill Hospitals presented over \$100,000 to each; the Committee feels that in our case at least \$10,000 should be raised.

A general appeal will be made in a short time, and the influence of each student in making it effective in his district is requested.

Send your cheque to C. W. Frazee, Esq., Hon. Treasurer Hospital Aid Association, Royal Bank of Canada, Halifax, N. S.

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- Regimental Number.....
- Rank.....
- Name.....
- Squadron, Battery or Company.
- Battalion, Regiment, (or other unit) Staff appointment or Department....
- Canadian Contingent.....
- British Expeditionary Force.....
- Army Post office, London, England.....

Unnecessary mention of higher formations, such as brigades, divisions, is strictly forbidden and causes delay.

The hospital unit makes a brave showing on the old Campus every day. You can see them improve hour by hour. They must know the squad drill off by heart by this time.

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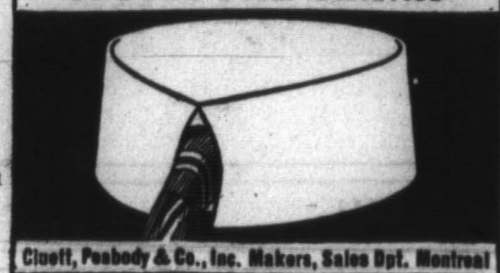
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## DR. FRASER-HARRIS BEFORE THE Y. M. C. A.

IN the Munro Room on Sunday Nov. 14th Dr Fraser-Harris, delivered before a large and appreciative audience of students and others a comprehensive and illuminating lecture—the second of the Y. M. C. A. series, on the subject "Through Science to God."

The key note of the address was the idea that all the sciences indicate Personality in the Universe.

Astronomy may be regarded as Mind or Personality working in space, Biology as Personality working through time, Palaeontology is the science of Life in past time, Biology the science of Life in present time.

All the sciences indicated order, method, system, cosmos as opposed to chaos.

Science included not only knowledge as to facts, but inferences, beliefs and predictions as well; some of the most brilliant things in science have been predictions verified and beliefs corroborated. Science is not confined to what is visible and palpable, it includes the belief in the evidence of things not seen."

If "the undevout astronomer is mad" as the old English poet said, then the undevout biologist is incomplete. "The Course of Nature is the Art of God." Design, an end attained, some goal appointed to be striven for, are present in every science.

The Professor said that the line of argument in such book as Paly's "Natural Theology or evidences of the Existence and attributes of the Deity" (1802) was not antiquated; science has but discovered designs and mechanisms much more wonderful than any which Paley described.

All such mechanisms as lever, pulley, valve, the use of negative pressure, electricity, coat of mail, electric current, flying machine, submarine boat, were mechanisms in nature ages before man appeared on the earth to imitate them in metal and other materials.

But the chemical mechanisms were even more wonderful than the mechanical: the living photography on the retina of the eye animal luminosity, the neutralizing of poisons, of toxins of bacteria, the conservation of heat and many others were examples.

Paley saw the possibility of evolution, but disliked to entertain it. Evolution, however, does not merely dispense with a mind, with intelligence working towards a goal? If the so called "fixed" laws of Nature are not incompatible with a supreme intelligence responsible for them neither are the evolutionary processes whether in non-living or in living matter.

The evolution of the stage-coach into a pullman car, the evolution of the steam-engine of any human contrivance, in fact, purposes the activity of an intelligence working with an end in view.

After alluding to the Laws discoverable in the sciences of consciousness and of conscience—Psychology and Ethics—and to the difficulties of retrogression, parasitism, Cruelty in Nature, Disease and Evil generally, the Professor quoted from Begson's "Creative evolution"—"The order that the intellect shows us in Nature is a real order, not a subjectively imposed order that exists only in our mind." More than Matter in the Universe, is the idea of the

moment: "Personality is the just central fact of the Universe," said Dr. J. S. Haldane of Oxford, lately. The reviewer of a work "The natural theology of evolution" recently wrote in "Nature"—"Certainly there is a greater tendency at the present war to accept a philosophy of idealistic type which looks on mind as the *primum*, and on the material world as a manifestation thereof, than at any time since modern scientific method appeared." The address was closed by Sir Oliver Lodge's invitation to us to "recognize in the woven fabric of existence flowing steadily from the loom in an infinite progress towards perfection, the ever-flowing garment of a transcendent God."

## AN IMPORTANT MEETING

AT a meeting of the Y M C A held on Tuesday night, November 23rd, Mr. MacLeod was chosen to fill the position of President, left vacant by the enlisting of Mr. N. L. Chipman. Although the Association has suffered greatly by the loss of many strong men, yet others have begun to fill the breaches, and the work is not likely to be hindered.

A very important matter came up for discussion. The advisability and feasibility of asking the student body to contribute to the support of Kenny Austen, who is in charge of Park St. Recreation Rooms, used by the 85th Battalion. Mr. Watt who is Secretary in charge of Military work for Halifax, spoke briefly and simply of the kind and value of work among the troops. He told of his own experience among the men of the 25th and among the troops trained at Valcartier. President Mackenzie who was present, spoke with appreciation of the work the Association was doing for the men in Khaki, and emphasized the responsibility of all who cannot be one of those men to do all in their power to assist.

It was thought that while it would not mean much individually to help support Austen, yet the united effort of the men and women of all faculties would mean a great deal, and that this was something all students would be glad to do the more because Mr. Austen is a Dal man, and because many of the men in the 85th are also Dal men. It is hoped that an adequate scheme may be reached so that no possible contribution may be denied the great privilege of doing his or her little bit.

One hardly knows his military friends these days. Under a thick upper lip brush, anybody belonging to you may be lurking. Keep your eyes open, boys. These newly acquired military decorations may be deceiving. For instance take Bob Zwicker of the 64th, who would recognize in the heavily moustached soldier of to-day the sturdy sophomore leader of a few years ago? There are others, not in khaki, who have acquired the habit but one must forbear from mentioning those nearer home. Watch the upper lip of our ex-Editor-in-Chief.

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## THROUGH HISTORY TO GOD

THE first of the Y. M. C. A. Sunday afternoon lectures was given by Prof. Todd before quite a large audience of students. To say that the lecture was good is to put it mildly indeed. Apart altogether from the material it contained, it would well have repaid any student to have listened to it as a model of English composition. The Gazette only wishes that it has the space to publish the address in full. Any summary however complete cannot do it justice. Prof. Todd took as his subject "Through History to God." History, the lecturer defined not as the record of dates and events merely, but as a stream of tendency, the movement of humanity onward and upward. "History is the story of progress and to study it is to learn the way by which we have come, to see how we have arisen as individuals, as nations, as humanity on stepping stones of dead generations to higher things." The Historian therefore cannot be other than religious for "the evolving story of what men have done and said and thought presents a continually expanding testimony to the power of Him who continueth ever" and 'hath an unchangeable priesthood."

Prof. Todd then proceeded to set forth some of the great fundamental lessons of history. In this review he had regard to those truths which have a bearing upon contemporary problems. (1) Progress is invariably a thing of infinite gradations and is frequently hid from the observing eye till some occasion arises particularly favourable to its revelation. In History as in God's providence ToMorrow oftentimes follows today only at an interval of a hundred years. The upward march of humanity is recorded on Time's clock not by the second's indicator but by the hour hand." The recognition of this truth saves from undue pessimism. More than that it will save one from unduly exaggerating his responsibility for righting the wrongs of the world. "The Light of the World" comes in the hearts of men not as the dawn comes in the tropics; but just as one who is recovering his sight is introduced to the strong light of the Sun by a carefully graduated process, so generation after generation humanity has climbed through the twilight towards the distant dazzling glory of the strong Son of God." No man therefore can offer his prescription as the sole remedy for the ills of humanity. It is just this mistake which the world peace enthusiasts of today make. "At this moment of historic time the highway to that future which is the substance of all our deepest religious hopes lies not through Hague Conferences and World's Peace Congresses but over the blood drenched battle fields of Europe."

(2) Beneath all the change diversity and discard of the World's life there exists a supreme and expanding sense of unity. This unity is present in both national and international life. In the nation's life this unity may seemingly be absent in times of peace. Strife and discord may appear to prevail. But how striking the difference when that nation is engaged in a war for the continued existence of its own ideals! This bond is no less present under normal conditions. Further it persists from generation to generation. "We are engaged on the very same task as our ancestors though the nature of it be more complex than in bygone days. "They delved for foundations, reared the scaffold-

ing raised the walls and in conformity with their building we carry the evolving design through another stage." There is as well a growing element of unity in which the nations meet and to which each makes its contribution. The history of one country is inextricably interwoven with the history of others. General movements such as the spread of monasticism etc pay little or no heed to barriers of race or nationality. The nations thus have a common heritage to which all contribute. Their contributions once made cannot be revoked or disowned. "We do ourselves a national disservice therefore by seeking to belittle any of the noble enduring achievements of the Germanic genius." The German nation on the other hand is guilty of overweening conceit when it cries out "We are the people and wisdom shall dwell with us." The hard won truth of thought and deed which is civilization's only lasting achievement, the legacy of light which mankind has added and will add to down the unborn ages by wading through failure and error; that truth that light! are the property of no nation under heaven but belong by Divine prescription to the commonwealth of all souls."

(3) The growing love of Truth and the growth of achieved Liberty form the enduring essence of progressive civilization. Pessimists there are who say the Love of Truth and the achievement of Liberty are not growing. Others say that the growth of liberty is incompatible with a growing love of truth. "The true verdict of History is that Truth and Freedom march hard in hand, that every conquest of Truth is an enlargement of Liberty. that every stroke struck for freedom witnesses to Truth. "It is to the defence of both that the progressive nations of the world are called in the present war. That is why the war must go on until we triumph; that is why ultimately no sacrifice is too great." "The History of the Ages gives the weight of infallible testimony to our conclusion that it is towards that Truth and that Liberty that the progressive achievement of mankind has tended and will tend."

DR. SMITH A DALHOUSIAN, IN  
MUNRO ROOM, SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 5th.

THE Sunday afternoon meetings have proved to be quite interesting and profitable. The subjects were attractive in themselves, but when discussed by such men as Prof. Todd, Dr. Fraser-Harris. Prof. Shaw and Prof Stewart they became much more attractive. The Series is not yet completed. Prof. Stewart delivered the fourth lecture on Sunday, November 28th. It is hoped that a fuller report of that wonderful lecture may be given to readers of the GAZETTE. His subject was "Through Philosophy to God." It touched closely on the next number of the Series "Through Religion to God." This subject was to have been given to Prof. H. A. Kent, who however, at the last, is unable to take it. The committee has been most fortunate in securing Dr. Smith of Fredericton for that theme. He will speak in the Munro Room on Sunday, December 5th, at 3 P. M. Dr. Smith who is an Old Dalhousian, has a reputation as a scholar and a lecturer, and should be heard by all the students. As usual there will be special music, which has always been a pleasing feature of these meetings.

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CULT OF KULTUR, Etc.

(Continued from page 1)

relationship to the present war. "This war," said he, "differentiates between all other wars in its moral aspect. A century ago we had to face a similar issue and make the same sacrifices when Napoleon attempted to dominate Europe."

Some, he continued, thought the issue in each case one and the same; but it was not so. Napoleon had turned into a war of aggression what originally began as a war of self-defense, forsaking the cause he had at first espoused.

INFAMOUS HOMOGENEITY.

The opposite was the present situation. The enemy today, was no nation divided against itself, but one remarkable for an infamous homogeneity from boundary to boundary. "Even in the Berlin manifesto issued to neutral nations, said he, "the single unprovoked aim to overthrow Europe is revealed every time. Even the religious guides of Germany have espoused the cause, and no dishonesty has been too gross, no atrocity too savage to be glossed over in the blasphemous benediction of court preachers." The unparalleled scenes of bestial cruelty organized by German officers and revelled in by German soldiers have all evoked a chorus of delight from the German Press."

Dr. Stewart disagreed with the general idea of one school of Nietzschean critics that the war was a repudiation of the writer's ideals despite the superficial possibility of such a decision. He delved through the polished embellishments of Nietzschean books and gave a large number of quotations from the works in question to prove his argument. Some of the salient points from Nietzsche's writings follow: "Germany is suffering from two gross narcotics, alcohol and Christianity."

"The Christian religion has done more to blast civilization than anything else." "The sin of sins in Germany is 'character softening,' the subservience of the nation to the doctrines of equality."

FEATURES OF PRUSSIANISM.

The chief features in the Prussian spirit Dr. Stewart said were brutal callousness, the assumption that the proletariat was created for the dominating caste, the division of mankind into higher and lower man, and the indispensability and wholesomeness of war in the furtherance of human progress. All these things, said he, received the enthusiastic support of Nietzsche who regarded the masses as blurred copies of great men made to be instruments of their overlords and after that good for nothing but to go to the devil and to statistics."

OTTAWA EVENING JOURNAL

TO DALHOUSIE

Fair—Eastern Queen! Beside th'eternal sea Red-towered, and ivy-mantled stands thy throne.—Mere bricks and mortar time-o'er grown—O'er which thy spirit broods in majesty Till thing and spirit are one and thing seems thee. Well nourished here, an eager throng have caught The Titan spark; th'elusive answer sought To Time's enigmas; learned to reverence Thee. Their deeds, their lives,—one constant hymn of praise Thy realms extend. A few that loved Thee well Have seen the fame and needs of coming days. And where Atlantic's billows gentler swell Severe and grand thy newer courts they raise. O'er these gray stones sweet spirit please to dwell.

SHAKESPEARE THE FIRST OF TRAGEDY POETS.

DR. STEWART BEFORE THE OTTAWA DRAMA LEAGUE.

ON the evening of November 22nd Professor Stewart lectured before the Ottawa Branch of the Drama League, taking for his subject Tragedy, and considering it in the light of Aristotle's Theory and Shakespeare's Practice. He said that just as Shakespeare is the first of tragic poets, so Aristotle is the most original of those who have made tragic poetry the object of theoretical investigation. Great weight must be attached to any principle upon which the two agreed, and great interest must belong to those points where they part company. Aristotle taught that this form of drama is in its essence a structure of incidents, which must be 'true to nature,' but that the nature to which they are true is by no means the trivial, the commonplace, or the average mode of conduct of the men and women whom one knows. To imitate this with fidelity would, indeed, require an ingenious craftsman, but such work would not be worth doing, and, if it were done, it would not deserve the name of art. That term in the literary sense should be reserved for the skill of him who deals with impulse and passion as the painter or the sculptor deals with form, finding his data in the actual, but using it so as to reveal nature's potentialities, to exhibit full-grown what nature holds a germ. And in doing so the tragic poet has before him a serious purpose. He must select an action that is grave, not like the writer of comedy—an action that is ludicrous. For the life which tragedy presents is a life of struggle between man and the forces which encompass him. Such struggle is one of which different persons are conscious in different degrees; it is realised at a minimum in him who drifts with the tide, at a maximum in him who 'grapples with his evil star.' Hence, for Aristotle, only the exceptional figure is suited to the tragic stage. And the purpose of the whole is to produce a certain definite effect on the spectator. It is to act as a kind of safety valve for the violent emotions of pity and fear. Before the idealised situations which tragedy presents these feelings are stirred to life; and, as Professor Butcher has put it, they are cured 'by a sort of homeopathic healing.' It followed from such a view that only a certain type of persons is suitable as a tragic hero. He must be of elevated dignity, of good though not spotless character, with passions like our own though on a grander scale, one who passes from prosperity to downfall, and whose collapse is, at least in part, due to himself.

When one thought of this doctrine in the light of Shakespeare's practice, one was immediately struck by points of coincidence. Aristotle seemed to have fixed for ever the meaning of the word 'tragic' It seemed properly to involve moral break down, the struggle of that which was entitled to succeed, and yet was balked by an antagonising force. Shakespeare's heroes derive their impressiveness in part from their social elevation; he has nowhere attempted to weave such a plot round the figure of one in humble life. And they are

(Continued on page 9)

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EXCHANGES

"An effort is being made to send complementary copies of the 'REVIEW' to all graduates on active service. We can only hope that the majority will reach their destination safely. The matter of obtaining addresses in every case is rather difficult, and any assistance furnished by our readers will be much appreciated by the Business Manager."—THE TRINITY UNIVERSITY REVIEW.

The Gazette is trying to do the same thing. Will Dalhousians please read, note and inwardly digest the above paragraph?

The Blue and White from Rothesay Collegiate School is before us. It contains an agglomeration of everything of interest to a student paper,—Football, Hockey, Cadet Camp and War all have prominent places.

"We are running this year, a new column in place of the Athletics column of former years. Through volume after volume, The Argosy has followed the fortunes of Mount Allison men in the games which they undertook; and now that so many of those who were, or would have been, prominent in our records of sport and college activity are players of the game of nations out on the fields of Europe, we would follow, and write of them still, for the honor of old Mt. A. Perhaps in this column, more than any other, is it imperative for us to have the support and co-operation of our readers. In this first issue in particular have we found ourselves handicapped by a lack of reliable information relating to the whereabouts and the life of our men at the front. Excerpts from letters, newspaper clippings, private information, or anything which will help us to make this section interesting to our readers, and worthy of the men it represents, will be gratefully received by The Argosy."—ARGOSY.

The "Argosy" is to be commended on its resolve as outlined above. All the universities should endeavour to follow the fortunes of their old heroes of days gone by. Dalhousie has many such in the trenches. Let us hear about their doings from time to time.

In our recent reading we came across a poem by the late Rupert Brooke, the promising young English poet who gave his life for freedom in the struggle for the Dari danelles. We quote only the fifth part, entitled "The Soldier." It seems prophetic of his own glorious passing and breathes the English love for freedom and England in a matchless manner:

'V.—THE SOLDIER'

If I should die, think only this of me: That there's some corner of a foreign field That is forever England. There shall be In that rich earth a richer dust concealed; A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware, Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam. A body of England's, breathing English air, Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home. And think, this heart, all evil shed away, A pulse in the eternal mind, no less Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;

Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day: And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness, In hearts at peace, under an English heaven."

McMaster University Monthly.

All the exchanges breathe the spirit of War, as is natural. The universities have sent of their best to the blood red fields of Europe. Even down to the smallest of us, we have our honor rolls. What college is there that cannot compile a roll of those "Dead on the Field of Honor?" What class is there that has not felt the call of War? So it is natural that our college papers should tell of War in all its aspects. Universities look after your soldier graduates. Keep them in mind now that they are in the trenches. Follow them as they return to their homes whether sick or well. Bear those in mind who have died for you. They deserve it, those brave soldier Grads. of ours. They deserve that their Memories should be kept green and fresh.

The following is taken holus-bolus from the October Number of the Trinity University Review. "Ostend is in Belgium and is the greatest summer resort on the north coast of England."

This answer which, according to the Belleville High School Elevator, was given by a pupil to one of several questions relating to the war, rather reminds us of the following answer once given on a matriculation history paper, viz: "The poems of Homer were not written by Homer but by another man of the same name."

From the same magazine we quote the following poem as we think it well worthy the attention of our readers. The plan of the poem is cleverly conceived indeed and very skillfully worked out:

THE LION.

"The Lion is asleep," they said, "Tis safe to start on France. For should the Lion hear our tread He will not raise his stupid head To question our advance.

"Through Belgium we will wend our way— She will not dare resist. If promises will not persuade, And threatenings leave her unafraid, We'll try the Mailed Fist.

"With France and Russia beaten down. Our little bill sent in, We'll turn upon the Lion bold, And lay him out, all stiff and cold, Before he can begin."

The Lion rested in the sun (They thought they heard him snore) When through the air there rang the cry Of Belgium "Help us, or we die!" Then came the answering roar!

The Lion sprang with mighty strength To where the need was sore, And from the corners of the earth The Lion's Cubs came tearing forth To join him in the war.

(Continued on page 8.)

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And is the British Lion old,  
His sun about to set?—  
Is he feeble, as they said?  
Is he dying?—nearly dead?  
Not yet my boy, not yet!

ARTHUR PLAYFORD.

If you want to learn something about the C. O. T. C. read the late McGill dailies, They are having their troubles up there also.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of the following, McGill, Darly, King's College Review, Queen's Journal, The Sheaf, The University Monthly, St. John's College Magazine, The Xaverian, The Argosy, The McMaster University Monthly and others which we will mention at another time.

## PLACES OF AMUSEMENT

### Academy.

That the popularity of the Academy Players increases as the weeks go by was manifested more than ever during this week when they played to standing room only every performance. The cast giving an extremely clever interpretation of Sir Gilbert Parker's "RIGHT OF WAY."

During the week of December 8th Charles Klein's great success "The Third Degree," will hold the boards, and as this production is in a class with the present one it is sure to be popular so our advice is book your seats early and thus prevent a repetition of what happened to many patrons this week.

### The Strand.

Seldom, if ever has a better vaudeville been seen in Halifax than that offered by the management of the Strand to its many patrons during the past week, and they are certainly to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to give a good show.

If you have never visited the beautiful new amusement house of Halifax—do it now.

WHEN I was a little boy" said the sarcastic drill sergeant to the awkward squad after hours of instructions, "I had a box of toy soldiers. I played with them for hours: but one day I lost them. Now after all these years, I seem to have found the damn things. Dismiss!"

One of the busiest men at Dalhousie is the new O. C. of the O. T. C. Dr. Cameron. He certainly is a hustler. He is doing the best he can to hurry up the contractors of the new market building. He's got his job cut out.

"Have you noticed the new Aroma around the halls of the brick edifice?" "Smells earthy does it?" "Are the meds trying to use the poisonous gas method on the lawyers or is it just because they have moved into the building?" "Or other words is it something that goes with the search after medical truth."

"Has anybody here seen Alice? There is a lot of work for him to do at a place situated a few yards or so off Morris St."

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## SHAKESPEARE THE FIRST OF TRAGEDY POETS

(Continued from page 8)

in general endowed with exceptional talent. How far was it true that they own their downfall to some 'error or frailty' of their own? There were certain Shakespearean figures whom Aristotle's phrase, so understood seemed to fit to a nicety. One might think of Hamlet's indecision, of the moral shock that unnerved him, of the melancholy which he could not control of his, endless brooding amid events which called for rapid action, of the fatal skill in casuistry which made him able to cajole himself with plausible reasons for delay. The majesty of Lear was crossed with an absurd capriciousness, with the self-will of an old autoerat whose whims had never before been resisted, with reliance on his own rash judgments of character. In Macbeth the zeal, the courage, the loyalty which Shakespeare is at pains to make prominent in the earlier scenes are vitiated by a craving for power. And though Othello may at first sight appear to be an exception, and to be rather the victim of his own good faith, Aristotle would have pointed out that virtue includes insight, and that so sanguine a charity as Othello's is culpable blindness in an imperfect world. At the same time it seemed more probable that Aristotle had in mind not a flaw of character but a mistake innocently made regarding circumstance, and such beyond doubt was the usual beginning of disaster in the Greek dramas with which he was acquainted. Thus the Aristotelian element in a Shakespearean play was not so much the character-drawing of the hero as the chapter of fateful accidents in which the hero became enmeshed; not, for example, Macbeth's self-destroying ambition but the chances by which that ambition became inflamed at the dangerous moment, the prophecy of the witches on the blasted heath, the arrival of Duncan, just at the timethis sinister encouragement had been given, the oracle that bade him fear none of woman born, and promised him safety, till Birnam wood should come to Dunsinane. A further point arose as to the relative importance of action and character. Aristotle's scheme made little room for the 'psychological tragedy' such as Hamlet. A certain fatalism brooded over the Greek stage; the plots were taken from the cycle of accepted myths which might be varied in detail but whose broad features must be preserved with many a supernatural factor; hence there was little opportunity to depict the free play of human wills. Moreover that situation which had proved so effective in modern times, the picture of the arch-villain pitting his own resources against the moral order, was expressly rejected in the Poetics. If Aristotle's principle had been followed here we should never have had Richard III. One must bear in mind that dramatic practice preceded dramatic theory, and must not expect from any theorist detailed account of a type of tragedy still to come. Those critics seemed in error who tried to make Aristotle's analysis adequate to the specifically or even the predominantly modern features of tragic drama. His own ideal was Sophocles, and so far as modern play were of the Sophoclean order his account left little to be desired. But other orders had still to evolve themselves. They were blind zealots indeed who would erect the authority of Aristotle into a limitation

against that progress in art which, if he had seen it in its maturity, he would have been the first to welcome. We should rather wonder at the insight which carried him so far than be surprised that drama has outgrown his formulae, or attempt by manipulating the formulae to prove that growth an illusion.

The Gazette suggests that this lecture should be repeated to a Halifax audience before long. The shot reports are so interesting, we want to hear the address verbatim.

## AN INTERESTING AFFAIR

ON Saturday night, November 20th, an entertainment was given in the Sailors Home by Dalhousie Students. There were present a number of men of the Army and Navy, but the attendance was not as large as on previous occasions, due, no doubt, to the earliness of the season, and the fineness of the weather. But those who were present enjoyed the informally given programme which consisted in choruses, solos, readings, etc., and showed their appreciation by generous applause, and by well chosen words of commendation. Perhaps the students themselves had the greater pleasure—the pleasure of seeing others pleased—and added to this the pleasure of meeting in a delightfully informal way.

A pleasant break in the musical programme, gave those ladies who are so faithful to this institution, an opportunity to make their contribution. An abundance of cake, coffee and apples was enjoyed by all.

While the hour was still early the programme ended, and all present joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and The National Anthem.

This is not the first time that the men and women of our college have made such an effort, and it will not be the last with the great opportunities given by the presence in Halifax of so many troops and by the existence of so many centres for their entertainment, students can be of great service.

## NOTICE

AN important meeting of the D. A. A. C. will be held in the Law Lecture Room, on Monday evening December 6th, at 7.30 P. M.

A full attendance is requested as many important matters will come before the meeting.

All male members of the University who have paid the five dollars levy are members of the D. A. A. C. and it is hoped that they will manifest their interest in the club by being present at the meeting to be held on Monday.

Among the Dalhousians who joined the ranks of the "Benedicts" is Vincent R. Smith, B. A., LL. B. His bride is Miss Rita Fitzgerald, one of Halifax's most popular and charming daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have taken up their residence at Regina, where Mr. Smith is a member of the legal firm of Cross, Jonah, Hogg, Forbes Smith.

## The Royal Military College of Canada

THERE are few national institutions of more value and interest to the country than the Royal Military College of Canada. Notwithstanding this, its object and the work it is accomplishing are not sufficiently understood by the general public.

The College is a Government Institution, designed primarily for the purpose of giving instruction in all branches of military science to cadets and officers of the Canadian Militia. In fact it corresponds to Woolwich and Sandhurst.

The Commandant and military instructors are all officers on the active list of the Imperial army, lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a complete staff of professors for the civil subjects which form such an important part of the College course. Medical attendance is also provided.

Whilst the College is organized on a strictly military basis the cadets receive a practical and scientific training in subjects essential to a sound modern education.

The course includes a thorough grounding in Mathematics, Civil Engineering, Surveying, Physics, Chemistry, French and English.

The strict discipline maintained at the College is one of the most valuable features of the course, and in addition, the constant practice of gymnastics, drills and outdoor exercises of all kinds, ensures health and excellent physical condition.

Commissions in all branches of the Imperial service and Canadian Permanent Force are offered annually.

The diploma of graduation is considered by the authorities conducting the examination for Dominion Land Survey to be equivalent to a university degree, and by the Regulations of the Law Society of Ontario, it obtains the same exemptions as a B. A. degree.

The length of the course is three years, in three terms of 9½ months each.

The total cost of the course, including board, uniform, instructional material, and all extras, is about \$800.

The annual competitive examination for admission to the College takes place in May of each year, at the headquarters of the several military divisional areas and districts.

For full particulars regarding this examination and for any other information, application should be made to the secretary of the Militia Council, Ottawa, Ont., or to the Commandant, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont.

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## "IRELANDS ATTITUDE TO THE WAR, IRELAND IS LOYALTY ITSELF", SAYS PROFESSOR STEWART.

FIVE hundred heard Professor H. L. Stewart address the Canadian Club of Montreal at a luncheon in the Windsor Hotel on Monday November 22nd. His subject by request, was 'Ireland's Attitude to the War.' He said that two things had specially impressed him since coming to Canada a year and a half ago. The first was the radiant hospitality which Canadians showed to the stranger within their gates. He had found that the newcomer was everywhere received with a welcome which made him feel very quickly at home, proud of his new citizenship, eager to enter into the common life, absorb the common traditions, and share the common destiny of the Dominion. And he had noticed in the second place that there was a general, an organised, and a sedulously fostered interest in debating public affairs. That was the healthiest possible sign in a democratic community. In Canada the readiest ear was lent to those who had anything to say. On the subject which he had to discuss he would speak frankly from the special point of view of those Irishmen with whose political principles he sympathised. For a certain suspiciousness was still entertained and still encouraged by certain newspapers towards one Irish party regarding its attitude to the war. It was said that the Nationalists were apathetic, and that they had furnished a relatively insignificant number of volunteers. Happily the War Office had recently supplied official statistics on the subject of recruiting. The last census recorded a total Irish population of less than 600,000 men of military age. This estimate, of course, made no allowance for those who might be judged physically unfit. 132,000 were serving with the colours. It seemed very questionable whether England, Scotland, or Wales would show a better proportion. For about sixty five per cent. of the Irish people were engaged in agriculture, and the farming class was the very last, except only the workers in munitions, which at such a time as this we could advantageously deplete. Again it must be remembered that an abnormal proportion of Irishmen were at all times found in the ranks either of the regular army or of the reserve in time of peace; this narrowed the area from which fresh recruits could be drawn to meet a special crisis. And there was reliable authority from the statement that about fifty per cent. of those who offered themselves had been rejected on medical grounds. If account were taken of these it would be seen that about one in three of the population of military age had been found willing for service. 115,000 Irish from Great Britain had volunteered, and if those from the Dominions overseas were added the total would certainly pass 300,000.

It was extremely distasteful to classify these brave men on the basis of the opinion regarding domestic politics which they might entertain in time of peace. These differences were tried in a blessed oblivion so far as the men in the trenches were concerned. But as the matter had been raised it was necessary to point out that neither

side could claim to monopolise loyalty. The Unionists had sent over thirty thousand; all honour to them for it; they were admired by none more sincerely than by their political opponents. But Mr. Redmond was necessarily able to appeal to a much wider constituency, and he had appealed with triumphant success. Whatever might be said of her party critics Ireland's record had won the enthusiastic appreciation of Lord Kitchener, who wrote that she deserved a full share of credit for her exploits on the field, and that her response to the call for men had been magnificent. The motives which had led to this enthusiasm were not far to seek. In particular the Irish Nationalist had been stirred by the plight of a small nation, struggling to preserve its independence against an overmastering neighbour. The heroic resistance of Belgium reminded him of many a page in his own country's past. And he recognised with gratitude that Great Britain had given to Ireland the sure pledge of her genuine zeal for small peoples, aiming to save alive their national soul. A new era had opened, an era of self-government which meant union in the highest sense; the British brotherhood had been made a reality, and it was for us to see that we never weakened in the coming time of peace that bond which had been forged in the ordeal of war. This address was listened to with intense interest by all present and one and all agreed that it was one of the finest efforts that had been heard before the Club.

### HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Among other prominent men who received honorary degrees at the recent inauguration of Dr. J. H. McCracken as President of Lafayette College was President Hill of Missouri. The college paper refers to him as a son of Dalhousie University, that little college of "Ultima Thule" to which Lafayette, like others of our American Colleges, is indebted for an able man; philosopher, wise administrator, loved leader of youth; he is presented for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr. J. W. Tupper ('92) is Professor of English at Lafayette, and he may have had a hand in that paragraph.

Dr. Karl F. Woodbury has been appointed Dental Surgeon to the Dalhousie Unit with the rank of Lieutenant. Woodbury is one of last year's Dental graduates. We hope that he will be very careful when he operates on the Adjutant-Paymaster of the Unit.

"Every time I look at you gentlemen handling your rifles" said the O. T. C. Sergeant Major, "I feel like going on my knees and thanking God we've got a Navy."

Miss Grace Harris Patterson ('08) was married on the 6th of October to Mr. John Calvin Dawson at Norton, Virginia. Miss Patterson paid a visit to the new Library at Studley in September and was looking very well. They will live at Inman, Va.

L. J. Miller is still at Penticton, B. C., and reports himself as much improved in health.

(Continued on page 11)

### JACK O'NEILL says:

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## W. F. PAGE

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Mr. T. G. MacLean of Calgary, who was here at the law school last session, sailed for England with the MacGill squad of reinforcements of the P. P. L. I. and is now at the front.

Earl R. MacNutt, M. A., LL. B., of Dalhousie, 1915, who was admitted to the New Brunswick Bar on November 11th inst. as an Attorney-at-Law, has decided to locate in Halifax. Mr. MacNutt will be connected with the well known firm of Covert & Pearson.

The Gazette begs leave to offer to Mr. D. L. Dwyer, M. A., LL. B., its congratulations on his appointment as J. P. in and for the county of Charlotte, N. B.

Speaking of the hospital unit, I saw Dr. John Stewart, O. C., in his uniform the other day. The Khaki sets off his white bearded face to perfection. Many a glance was thrown in his direction by the onlooker. The Dalhousie Unit certainly has a very distinguished leader.

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I telephoned up the barracks of the Dalhousie Unit the other day and asked for MacDonald. "Which MacDonald?" was the answer I received back, "We have four of them here," which makes the Unit distinctly Dalhousian of course. I wonder whether they come from Pictou or C. B. or both.

Jack Stairs, Arts '12, who was wounded some time ago is getting better and will soon be back to work again. Stairs is in the 25th Battalion. He is a brother of George W. who was killed at Langemark. Another brother, Dennis, is now in England.

An interesting letter from an old U.N.B. man which appears in the *Federations Gleaner* of the 25th inst. contains the good news that Capt. E. A. Chisholm of Law '16, and a member of last year's Dalhousie's football team, has been given a commission as Major in the Imperial Army. Eddie sailed for England as Captain of the 23rd Battery along with Major K. J. McKay and several other Dalhousie men. His very many friends at Dalhousie will be pleased to learn of his appointment, and will wish him every success.

By the way I am informed that there is to be no Chaplain for the Unit. There once was a Pine Hill Professor who sagely remarked that missionaries should be sent to Dalhousie; instead of Heavens here. Now the Dalhousie Unit is to have no spiritual adviser. Christianity seems to be advancing at our college. Perhaps it is because that Professor has left Pine Hill, who knows.

Collie Sutherland ('12) is also with the Unit. He and Fraser McGee ('14) are doing their best to leave the Campus in front of the Medical Building. It will take some time but Collie and Fraser ought to do it.

The numerous friends of Dalhousie's brilliant Rhodes scholar of Lieut. John E. Read, M. A., B. C. L., will be interested in the announcement of his approaching marriage to Miss Diana Willes Chitty.

Lieut. Read is now serving with the field artillery at the front, his fiancée is the only daughter Hon. J. Willes Chitty, the author of "Chitty's forms and other legal authorities of note. Lieut. Read after receiving his degree at Oxford, joined the faculty at Dalhousie Law School as lecturer in Real property. The Gazette extends its heartiest congratulations to Mr. Read while numerous Dalhousians wish Mr. and Mrs. Read every happiness.

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