

The Dalhousie Gazette.

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POETS-LAUREATE.

Under the title poet-laureate, the Court of Great Britain retains an officer, whose duty it was, at the beginning of the present century, to produce annual odes on the new year and the king's birthday, for which he received a salary of one hundred and twenty-seven pounds a year. Formerly, instead of the odd twenty-seven pounds he received a tierce of Canary wine, which he obtained from the royal cellars.

This custom of crowning poets with wreaths of laurel is as old as poetry itself, having originated in Greece, and was transmitted to both ancient and modern Rome. It existed up to the time of Theodosius, when it was abolished. In the sixteenth century the degree of Bachelor and Doctor was fixed in the Universities. Those worthy of the honour of the degree obtained the *laurel of Bachelor*, or the *laurel of Doctor*; *Laurea Baccalaureatus*; *Laurea Doctoratus*. They not only assumed this title, but also had a *crown of laurel* placed on their heads. To this ceremony the revival of the custom is attributed. About this time Petrarch was the subject of a public ceremony of this kind, and it was repeated at a later period in honor of Tasso. From the beginning of the sixteenth century the Emperors of Germany had a Court poet who received the honors of a laurel coronation, and was called *Gekronte dichter*, or in Italian, *Il poeta Cesareo*; the illustrious Metastasio once held the office. The Spanish seem to have had a poet-laureate, but the French never had. In England, there was attached to the Court, almost from time immemorial, a miserable dependant called the *King's Poet*, or the *King's Versificator*. John Kay, who dedicated a *History of Rhodes* to

Edward IV., styles himself his *humble poet-laureat*; and this individual is supposed by Warton to have been the first who took that superior title. In the Acts of Rymer there is a charter of Henry VII., *pro poeta laureato*. From this it would appear that this monarch had also such a retainer. Skelton, celebrated for his profuse and easy rhymes, held this office under Henry VIII. Spenser, being awarded, in 1591, by Queen Elizabeth, with a pension of fifty pounds, for the dedication of his *Faery Queen*, was usually called her laureate, though we have no account of any definite appointment. Spenser died broken-hearted and in want of bread in King Street, Westminster, on 19th January, 1599, after refusing a present from the Earl of Essex of twenty pieces of gold, which he mournfully said he could not live to spend. Samuel Daniel seems to have succeeded Spenser as laureate, a poet of no great power, and little known at the present day. It is not certain whether Daniel, if he really had the title, received any salary, though he enjoyed some other posts at Court. It is recorded that, at his death in 1619, Ben Jonson, who for some years had performed the duties, received the title. But this is inconsistent with the fact, which appears from King Charles's subsequent patent, that Ben was favored by King James, in February, 1616, with a gift of an annual pension of a hundred merks, out of his mere good will to letters. If the receipt of this royal favor was unconnected with any arrangements in which Daniel was concerned, we must doubt the fact of Jonson having succeeded that poet as laureate. The commencement of the pension in 1616, is probably the first clear commencement of the post of laureate, as now understood. Long before 1616,

Ben Johnson had been fully engaged in the service of the Court. He had also shown his peculiar qualifications for the duty of a laureate by flattering James as the best of poets and kings. In 1629, when in distress from sickness, he received from King Charles a present of one hundred pounds, which Sir Walter Scott has justly said would be no trifling gift for a poor bard, even in his day. Jonson acknowledged the royal generosity in a grateful epigram, which turns upon a declaration that Charles was possessed of the gift of curing both the king's and the poet's evil—poverty; but his gratitude seems to have been much of that kind which consists in a lively anticipation of future favours, for, in the very next year, we find him petitioning that his pension of a hundred merks may be made a hundred pounds:

"The humble petition of poor Ben,
To the best of monarchs, masters and men,
King Charles:
—Doth humbly show it,
To your Majesty, your poet;
That, whereas your royal father,
James the Blessed, pleased the rather,
Of his special grace to letters,
To make all the muses debtors,
To his bounty, by extension
Of a free poetic pension,
A large hundred merks annually
To be given me in gratuity,
For done service and to come;
And that this so accepted sum,
Or dispensed in books or bread,
(For with both the muse was fed),
Hath drawn on me from the times
All the envy of the rhymes,
And the rattling pit-pat noise
Of the less poetic boys,
When their pot-guns aim to hit,
With their pellets of small wit
Parts of me (they judged) decayed,
But we last out still unlayed.
Please your Majesty to make,
Of your grace, for goodness sake,
Those your father's merks your pounds;
Let their spite, which now abounds,
Then go on and do its work;
This would all their envy burst,
And so warm the poet's tongue.
You'd read a snake in his next song."

The King granted this petition of Ben, adding: "One tierce of Spanish wine yearly, out of our store of wine remaining in our cellars within the palace of Whitehall." As the result of this, two poems, *An Epigram of the Queen, then Lying In,*

and *An Epigram on the Birth of the Prince*, were written by Jonson in little more than two months after the granting of the petition. In the same year we find Ben, whose fondness for a cup of wine at the Devil Tavern, near Temple Bar, is well known, complaining of a delay in what would probably appear to him the most important part of His Majesty's bounty; for in *An Epigram to the Household*, he inquires the reason of the delay, and tells what he would do were they to grant the allowance. Ben got his tierce, no doubt; but the King's power to cure the poet's evil does not seem to be effectual, for in the next year Jonson is found petitioning the Lord Treasurer,—and not long after, the King. The latter sent him ten pieces, when he was on his death-bed. On receiving this, Ben remarked: "He sends me this trifle because I am poor and live in an alley; but go back and tell him that his soul lives in an alley." Ben died in August, 1637. It was the King's wish that Thomas May, afterwards the historian of the Long Parliament, should succeed Jonson, but the Queen did not wish it, and obtained it for William Davenant, author of *Gondibert*, a heroic poem, and of numerous plays. Davenant received the office and pension in December, 1638, sixteen months after Jonson's death; the delay having been caused, most likely, by the disputes which had broken out between the King and his Scottish subjects. Davenant fought in the civil war, and was knighted by the King for his services. During the Commonwealth he was still considered as the poet-laureate of his own party, and he resumed the duties of the office at the Restoration. We have no account of Cromwell appointing a laureate, though in Milton he employed the greatest poet that ever performed state service in England.

Davenant died in 1668, and in 1670 Dryden succeeded to the office of laureate, with that of royal historiographer, for these united offices a salary of £200 and a butt of wine being appointed. This illustrious poet was, in 1689, compelled to relinquish these offices, being unable, from both religious and political prejudices, to take the oaths to the government of William and Mary. They were then conferred, with a salary of

£300, upon Thomas Shadwell, who is now only known to English literature through Dryden's satire of *Macflecnoe*, in which he is branded as the prince of dullness:

"The rest to some faint meaning make pretence;
But Shadwell never deviates into sense.
Some beams of wit on other souls may fall,
Strike through, and make a lucid interval;
But Shadwell's genuine night admits no ray."

Some who have reviewed his writings have given judgment the very opposite to that of his great rival and antagonist. Sir Walter Scott concludes that, in his whiggery, and the sufferings he had endured under the old government, as a "non-conforming poet," he probably possessed merits with King William, which were deemed by that prince as of more importance than all the genius of Shakespeare, Milton and Dryden, if it could have been combined in one individual.

On the death of Shadwell in 1692, the laurel was given to Nahum Tate, a dramatist and miscellaneous writer, who, together with Nicholas Brady, wrote a metrical version of the Psalms. Tate retained the laurel during this and the succeeding reign, and even wrote the birthday ode of George I., but is said to have died in 1715, in the Mint, where extreme poverty forced him to take refuge. His successor was Nicholas Rowe, a writer of tragedy. Though not much superior to his two predecessors, he was very popular with Pope, Swift and Addison.

At his death, in December, 1718, the office of laureate was bestowed upon the Rev. Lawrence Eusden, an obscure poet. He obtained this office through the influence of the Duke of Newcastle, as he had written an epithalamium on his grace's marriage to Lady Henrietta Godolphin.

He was succeeded in 1730 by Mr. Colley Cibber, a good comic dramatist, but a very poor poet. This was the fifth appointment in which party politics, to the neglect of real merit, had directed the royal choice. For Shadwell and Tate had been appointed during the life of Dryden, and Rowe, Eusden and Cibber during the lives of Pope and Swift. In consequence of the office being so frequently given without

reference to merit, it now became a regular butt for the superior as well as the inferior denizens of Parnassus—for Twickenham as well as Grub Street. The following is one of many pasquinades which Colley elicited:

"In merry old England it once was a rule,
That the King had his poet and also his fool;
But now we're so frugal, I'd have you to know it,
That Cibber can serve both for fool and for poet."

Colley, who was a lively amusing writer, sung on amid this thickly-flying hail of wit, no doubt thinking that, in the pension and Canary, he had the best of the joke.

At the death of Cibber in 1757, the laureateship was conferred upon William Whitehead, after it had been refused by Gray. After he received the appointment he was attacked by Churchill and other satirists, but he wisely made no reply. From the days of Rowe it had been customary for the poet-laureate to produce an ode for the new year, and one for the king's birthday, both of which being set to music by the master of the king's band, were sung before the Court, and also published in the newspapers. Now those subjects had in reality nothing poetical about them, yet a man of superior genius was forced to drive all poetical ideas from his head in order to produce a few tame and senseless verses. The absurdity lies not so much in the odes as in the custom of exacting them. Rev. Thomas Warton, author of *History of English Poetry*, succeeded Whitehead in 1785. He belonged to a poetical family, and his superior learning gave dignity to the office.

Gibbon, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, published about this period, remarks that "from Augustus to Louis, the muse has been too often venal; yet I doubt much whether any age or court can produce a similar establishment of a stipendiary poet, who, in every reign and at all events, is bound to furnish, twice a year, a measure of praise and verse, such as may be sung in the chapel, and, I believe, in the presence of the Sovereign." "I speak the more freely," he adds, "as the best time for abolishing this ridiculous custom is while the prince is a man of virtue, and the poet a man of genius." After this, in 1790, the New Year's Ode was discon-

tinued: This occasioned much talk, and was referred to by Peter Pindar in what he called an *Ode on No Ode*.

"What! not a sprig of annual metre,
Neither from Thomas nor from Peter!
Who has shut up the laureat's shop?
Alas, poor Tom's a-cold, I fear;
For sack poor Tom must drink small beer,
And lo! of that a scanty drop!"

* * * * *

"Perchance (his powers of future actions hoarding)
George thinks the year boasts nothing worth recording,
Yet what of that! though nought has been effected,
Tom might have told us what might be expected;
Have said that civil list should sigh no more,
And Charlottee gave—a sixpence to the poor!"

In May, 1790, Warton died and was succeeded (Cowper being alive) by James Henry Pye, who was much *cut up* for his presumption in aspiring to such an honor, and of whom the least that can be said is, that he had no place in English literature. Pye resumed the practice of writing a new-year ode; but after 1796 both new-year and birth-day ode appear to have been discontinued. If Pye had no great genius, he possessed the patriotic spirit of the time. He translated the war verses of Tyrtæus the Spartan, for the purpose of animating the British militia against the French; and a board of general officers, much impressed by their importance, agreed to give all the effect in their power to his intentions. The verses were read aloud at Warley Common and Barham Downs by the adjutants, at the head of five regiments, at each camp; and much was expected. But before they were half finished, all the front ranks, and as many as were within hearing or *verse-shot*, dropped their arms suddenly, and were all found fast asleep. Marquis Townsend wittily remarked on this occasion, that the first of all poets had observed that *Sleep* is the brother of Death. This laureate, who consented to the commutation of his butt of wine for twenty-seven pounds, was succeeded in 1813 by Robert Southey, the first man of true poetical genius, who had held it since the dismissal of Dryden. His time was entirely given up to literature, and he wrote more than Scott. His library was his world and his books were his companions. On the death of Southey in 1843, William Wordsworth, the greatest of meta-

physical poets, received the office of poet-laureate and a pension of £300. He arranged his works according to their respective subjects; as Poems founded on the Affections, Poems of the Fancy, &c. He thought that his poems should be read in a certain continuous order, to give full effect to his system. Thus classified and published, the poet's works formed six volumes. He died on the 23rd April, 1850, and Alfred Tennyson, the present occupant of the title, by universal acclamation, succeeded to the laurel,

"Greener from the brows
Of him who uttered nothing base,"

and who has slowly won his way to fame. The Ode on the death of the Duke of Wellington and TO THE QUEEN are laureate offerings.

From this hasty review of the laureates it appears that those appointed by the Stuarts were men of genius and great ability, and those of the Brunswick sovereigns were, during the whole of the first century of their sway, with the exception of Warton, the dullest pretenders to poetry in their respective times.

Alfred Read CAN CAN.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Of all the literary Goliaths who strove for popularity in that age of literature, none were so successful as Sir Walter Scott. The literary public, bound by the spell of ill-fated Byron, were fast drifting into channels of debasing thought, and the genius of Scotland was thus in danger of "being perverted from its purest uses to become the minister of vain philosophy and the anatomist of polluted natures." But forth upon the scene came one destined "to rival all but Shakespeare's name below;" one to restore literature to its proper standing, and give a fresh impulse to its impeded progress.

Sir Walter's first printed production was "Glenfinlas," which appeared in a magazine named "Tales of Wonder." As "Comus" was called the dawn of "Paradise Lost," so may we trace in this ballad much of the wild fancy and glowing diction which so characterizes the "Lay of the Last Minstrel." Our article would grow too lengthy should we reflect upon this poem, so we shall satisfy ourselves by saying that the

"Lay" may justly be considered the most perfect and highly elaborated of all the author's works. We will pass "Marmion," which we consider the most poetical, and come to his most popular, "The Lady of the Lake." It is related that "all the travelling world, the summer ensuing the publication of this poem, set off in carriages and four to visit Loch Katrine." Its speedy circulation far outstripped any work then existing. Of its defects we say little. It has blemishes from which very few poems are free, but its faults are shadowed by its worth. The glowing description so true to nature, and the deep unceasing flow of its rhythm lend an additional charm, and the reader is lost in admiration as nature and history are recalled into existence.

Among the characteristics of his poetry we might note the following. Never do we find in his characters the author in disguise, nor yet in their language a hazy outline of the author's life. "There is nothing," says Lord Jeffrey, "cold, creeping or feeble in all Mr. Scott's poetry; no laborious littleness or puling classical affectation;" and though there is little of the meditative cast about it, yet there is vigor and picturesqueness.

But it was through his novels that he gained such wide-spread fame. Never in the annals of literature were books sent forth to the reading world with such rapidity. A reviewer of no inferior attainments acknowledged his inability to keep up with him, and fairly renounced the task of keeping a regular account of his publications. Nor was their popularity destined to be as the flash of the meteor. As the sparkling stream wends its placid way, sending forth a richer and more beautiful vegetation from either side, so have Sir Walter's novels come down to us, stimulating the writers of fiction with purer thoughts and tinting their works with brighter hues.

His finest novels, we think, are "Ivanhoe" and "Kenilworth." A reviewer, speaking of the former, says: "It is a splendid poem, and contains matter enough for six good tragedies. In the latter we have Elizabeth depicted in a brilliant and graphic style; the events of that heroic reign pass before our view wearing the garb of modern

thought, but draped with the veil of antiquity. His other novels we will not mention. They came forth to the reading world bearing no name of renown. They attracted attention and obtained their exalted position through merit. And to-day they stand amid the works of fiction as monuments of his genius and splendid trophies of his untiring industry." L.

OUR EXCHANGES.

From Philadelphia comes the *University Magazine*. The *Magazine* is full of athletics; the University foot-ball team was "left" in the contests with Rutgers and Princeton.

We have individuals at Dalhousie such as are described in the *Niagara Index's* article on "Mopes." Here the "Mopes" never play foot-ball, nor are found at Gymnasium, nor yet in Sodales. In the halls they wear a dejected and disconsolate look. How they should be treated is an interesting question. It has been suggested that they should be "hazed." Something must be done, and that quickly, to awake them from the wretched condition they are in.

In one column the *University Mirror* deprecates the taste of those college papers whose columns "contain many abortive attempts at humor, and not a few jokes whose local character and narrow source make them unintelligible to all except the few who happen to be in the 'racket.'" On turning to its local department we find such items as the following:

"When I get it in my brain."
Is Frank married? He says so.
Rumor has it that "Jenks" is gone on the matron.

We admire the consistency of the *Mirror*.

The *Beacon* says that the "Exchange Column" is a relic of the "savage days of college journalism;" that it reminds us of our "former undeveloped and puerile state." We can scarcely agree with our contemporary. The column gives an excellent opportunity for mutual criticism which, if properly made, must be of benefit to all, and must tend to increased inter-collegiate friendliness.

We have received the following:—*Argosy*, *King's College Record*, *Acadia Athenæum*, *Presbyterian College Journal*, and *Central Collegian*.

The Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 8, 1882.

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CONTENTS.

Poets-Laureate	29
Sir Walter Scott	32
Our Exchanges	33
Editorial	34, 35
Correspondence	35
Our Glorious Trip	35
About the College	37
Among the Colleges	38
Dallusienasia	39
Personals	39
Clippings	40
Acknowledgments	40

THE extension of our lecture course will soon demand some change in the existing distribution of the work. To make the subjects of our course optional would be a change in accordance with the ideas of the day, and would doubtless add greatly to the efficiency of the College. For under the present system, a man must devote his time to many subjects, in none of which he can make much progress, owing to the check imposed upon him by the others. Indeed, the actual amount of work arising from the variety of subjects is now becoming a grievance, and will soon need modification. A weighty reason in favor of an optional course is to be found in the likes and dislikes of men to some subjects. Students come to College of their own will and desire, and in the great majority of cases would take a sufficient number of lectures to keep them fully employed, while they would study with more willingness subjects congenial to the tastes. We are not aware that studying subjects that are distasteful is of much profit to a man. And as to employing one's time on a great variety of subjects, we are inclined to think that time so occupied is to a large extent wasted. Touching on this, that, and the other subject is of no use to a student. Such a course neither adds to one's knowledge, nor teaches one to think.

It will be urged in opposition to the change that men do not come to Dalhousie to study one or two subjects only; that the College can make no pretence to turning out specialists; and that the real object of a course at Dalhousie is merely to afford a fair liberal education. The same system, the opponents to an optional course might urge, should, if applied to Dalhousie, be applied to High Schools. There is this difference, that while at High Schools students have no particular liking for any branch of study, and are in the main sent there by parents or guardians, at College their tastes are more developed, and they come with the full intention of studying and improving themselves. To make the majority of subjects at this College compulsory is to put it on a level with High Schools, and to class the students as school boys.

A slight alteration in the class fees of some lecturers might be the result of making the course optional, but this would be so slight that we do not believe it would stand in the way of a change. Whether or no, it should be a matter of secondary importance in so radical an alteration of our present system.

Some slight advance has been made in this direction in the third and fourth years. An option is there given in several subjects, and still further reduction to men studying for honors. We think that if these latter were permitted to devote all their time to their honor course, more good would result than under the existing regulations. We presume that an honor course is intended to give more advanced knowledge in a particular direction. But if the extent to which this advanced training is at present given be beneficial to a student, we may fairly infer that still more advanced training will be still more useful. If this be the case, why inflict on the student a variety of subjects, some of which are distasteful to him, when one subject will give equal training, and at the same time be congenial to his turn of mind?

IN our last issue a student drew attention to the management of the College Library. We then promised to say a few words in reference to his communication. We do not wish to be continually found in the role of fault-finders, but

if the facts are as "X." states them, and on enquiry we find there is too much truth in his statements, we shall be committing no offence in airing this subject.

Our library is small—we were going to say disgracefully small for a College of Dalhousie's pretensions. We have hope though for its future. The wealthy friends of the College do not know the lamentable condition of affairs, and no one seems to think it worth while to inform them of the matter. But some day it will get to the outside world that in this College of nine professors and one hundred and twenty-five students, there are stored the magnificent collection of 2500 books. We respectfully suggest, however, that while the outlook may be very brilliant, the point to be at present considered is whether or not the students should be allowed to utilize what few volumes there are. Are the facilities for finding books the best? Can one stay in the library any longer than will suffice to grab his book and run? We could propose many questions in reference to the matter, but we forbear. The whole subject resolves itself into this: Are the views of students on these questions wanted? And if expressed in a respectful manner will their ideas be carried out? We are not without hope that this matter will soon be attended to, when the Faculty become aware of the present inefficient arrangements.

DR. CROSBY, an eminent educationist, has pronounced strongly against the over-development of athletics in American Colleges. It seems that some of them are neglecting true College work in their excessive anxiety to be "champions" in this or that particular sport. No one can make this criticism of Dalhousie. In fact, it may be safely asserted that here the tendency is all the other way. We have been pleased to see this year an increase of interest taken in sports. The football season is past. Let us on that account, then, give more attention to Gymnasium work which will stand us in good stead when the terrible "cramming" season arrives.

IT is desirable that all students should patronize those who advertize in the GAZETTE. It is to be noted that in a certain sense our advertizers are the backbone of this paper, and it is nothing but fair that we should assist those who assist us.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Gazette:

I wish to call attention to a grievance under which the students of this college are at present suffering; and I shall propose a remedy for it. It is well known that every year there is great trouble over the purchasing of the required books. One bookseller hasn't them in stock, and another doesn't order works of that kind. At last the student finds some one willing to send away for them. Then commences a weary wait of five or six weeks, and, in some cases, even more. When the books do arrive he is charged most extravagant prices, consequent on the expense of ordering but a few.

Would it not be advisable for the Faculty to open negotiations with some reliable bookseller, who by drawing to himself all the students' trade would make his shop a "University bookstore."

Yours, &c.,

BOOKS.

OUR GLORIOUS TRIP.

THE unusually early hour of 7 saw most of us up and smiling on the world on Saturday morning, December 2nd. At 7.45 we were all supposed to be assembled at the station in noble array, and to start at 8 o'clock. So at the proper time we were there, a cold, hungry looking lot—for all were scantily clad and some only had been fortunate enough to rise in time to fortify the inner man against the fierce attack of oxygen, the rest alas! were profoundly conscious of an aching void about them somewhere. But hold, one, two—no we are not all present,—there are only *fourteen of us*. How happens it thus? Only ten minutes before we leave and one man missing.—Go to! but this is awkward,—two minutes more and still he has not come. "Too

late, too late, ye cannot enter now,"—we are off. But just then an athletic form appears at the door, and putting on a terrible burst of speed, something unparalleled in the annals of locomotion, he is in our midst. "The gods turned the thing out well." Pipes—"horresco referens"—were seen poking their seasoned heads from out the pockets of some and soon were pendent from the mouths of their youthful and foolish owners. Then nothing could be seen but smoke, nought heard but the ever-beautiful, sweetly-chanted hymns of Dalhousie. Then did Bingo wag his tail more furiously than was his wont, and the landlord fill the flowing bowl, as oft he has done before; and under the influence of the heavenly refrains we called to mind these words of Moore:

"Friendship's balmy words may fail,
Love's are even more false than they,
Oh! 'tis only Music's strain
Can sweetly soothe and not betray."

Soon Bedford is reached, and helter-skelter out we go to seek relief in the fresh air from the stifling atmosphere of the over-fumigated car.

Anon we retire under cover and undertake the practicing of various drop kicks, punts, scrimmages, etc., etc., much to the grievance of certain *Barbarians*, who condescended not to take the hint when the conductor, (a good fellow, long life to him,) told us that we might have the car to ourselves and do anything we liked therein except—well, he made us promise that we would not hurt the floor. Windsor Junction is reached, and in course of time Windsor Town. Out on the platform boys, one and all!—*Sic facimus*,—and there we stand regaling the inhabitants of this busy town with a few choice selections. (N. B.—It was dark when we returned, so that we were unable to ascertain whether or not our melody had caused any cases of petrification.) At last, passing through the far-famed Grand Pré, the home of Evangeline, we approach our destination. On remarking how different the aspect of the country must be now from what it was in the early times of privation and hardship, owing to the absence of the forest primeval, our philosophical conductor, Mr. Edwards, remarked that if the forest primeval had remained perhaps we would have escaped some of the d—n sight worse evils that had taken its place.

We come at last to the town of the *litterati*. From the station a good view of the Academy may be had, and on inspection this building proves to compare very favourably, even with our own sublimely excellent institution. The class-rooms are large, finely lighted, well ventilated apartments, and the library vastly superior to our "upwards-of-2,000-volumes" farce. But the system of education does not appear to be so complete as our own.

The further we receded from home the thicker was the snow found to be, and when we came to Wolfville fully four inches, with a hard, frozen crust, lay on the ground. From the station we trudged to the college; whence, refreshed with some cider and a slight rest, we took our departure for the campus. In an hour's time "the fight was o'er, the victory"—but there was no victory for any one, indeed neither side could fairly boast of even more than a slight advantage. The early rising, long ride and hour's work, had by this time caused that peculiar sensation to steal over us which could be dispelled only by a good dinner, and, thanks to the hospitality of our new friends, this antidote was at hand.

The afternoon was passed pleasantly by us all; but particularly fascinating was the fine singing of the Acadians—Dalhousie boys will practice long before they will sound so tunefully.

Immense and varied genius blazed forth during the procession to the station; from one quarter of the crowd would arise a distressingly suggestive sound, as of cats, while indications of the presence of dog-flesh would arise elsewhere. Owing to the prudence of the Janitor we arrived at the station fifteen minutes too soon. The interval was beguiled with innumerable songs and bad jokes, more numerous still. At last the engine came up and, amid cheering from both parties, we struck for home.

The trip down passed quickly and pleasantly, and at 8 o'clock ended the most gigantic enterprise in the unwritten records of Dalhousie.

A CHICAGO woman recently told her husband that she had put her foot right down on his going to the club. He glanced at the foot, sighed, and sent in his resignation.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE.

MEMBERS of the English class complain of the cold in that room. Let the Janitor attend to this in future.

THE Wanderers' Amateur Athletic Club have made arrangements whereby their members may attend the College gymnasium every evening during the winter except Wednesday and Saturday.

MR. NOTMAN has presented to the Students tickets entitling them to be photographed at reduced rates. They are very neatly got up and have a view of the College as seen from the south-western side of the Parade.

THE foot-ball match between Acadia and Dalhousie resulted in a drawn game. For full particulars of the trip we refer to another column. The following are the names of the players and their respective positions:

DALHOUSIE FIFTEEN.

Forwards.—Marten, Gammell, Crowe, Rogers, Stewart, Fitzpatrick, McDonald (Captain), Mellish, McLeod.

Half-backs.—Taylor, Henry.

Backs.—Reid, Bell.

Goal-keepers.—E. M. McDonald, Robinson.

ACADIA FIFTEEN.

Forwards.—Clinch (Captain), Ellis, Rogers, Welton, Whitman.

Half-backs.—Haley, O. C. S. Wallace, Walker, W. Wallace.

Backs.—Bradshaw, Lovett, Eaton, Lockhart.

Goal-keepers.—Corey, McGee.

SODALES.—On Friday evening the 24th Oct., the usual weekly meeting of this society was held. The question for discussion was, "Should Capital Punishment be abolished?" Nicholson opened for the affirmative in a lengthy and pleasing speech. Freeman responded, and in a clear, logical address, pointed out the flaws in Nicholson's argument. The opener was well assisted by Kempton, Jones and Crowe; while Gammell, MacGregor, Murray, Ross and Macdonald came to the help of the respondent. Against this array of speakers the opponents of capital punishment could make but little headway, and the decision was in the negative by a "large majority." Fitzpatrick as critic was a great success, and had the society more like him in this respect, a great improvement in the speakers would be the result.

FRIDAY, Dec. 1st., brought around the next meeting of Sodales. The subject of debate was, "Which affords the most pleasure: Anticipation or Realization?" Mr. Victor Coffin opened on the side of realization. His matter was good, well arranged and delivered in a pleasing manner. The speech would have done credit to many older members.

Mr. Jones, who responded, spoke in the able and effective manner of a man who knows his subject and believes that the rules of logic are in his favor.

Mr. E. M. Macdonald's remarks showed that he possessed, in a good measure, the necessary qualifications of, and only needed practice to develop into, a speaker of ability. After a short but witty address by Mr. Mellish, Mr. Nicholson rose to his feet. If applause means appreciation of worth and eloquence, his speech was one of the best and most eloquent that has been delivered in the society.

Lack of space will not permit us to more than mention the others who participated in the discussion. The arguments on both sides were presented by Messrs. Gammell, Cahan, Fillmore, A. S. Mackenzie, Freeman and Congdon.

Although the subject was rather metaphysical, yet the readiness of the members to speak and the original ideas brought out, showed that philosophers are not a scarce article among us. Authorities were quoted ranging from the Bible down to the experience of the most commonplace smoker. The majority were in favor of anticipation.

After Murray had read his critique, it was passed that an addition of two be made to the original managing committee of the society, to aid them in making arrangements for the usual entertainment before the vacation. Messrs. Crowe and Gammell were subsequently appointed to the important and honorable positions thus created.

IN the last issue of the GAZETTE attention was called to the advantages of a devotional meeting in connection with our College and its claims upon students. In the present number we shall endeavour to lay before readers of the GAZETTE an outline of the rise and progress of this meet-

ing. For the following facts we are indebted to Rev. F. W. Archibald, M. A.:

The idea of having a students' prayer meeting arose in the Freshman Class of 1872, and the credit of organizing such a meeting is due to Messrs. Purves, Logan, Archibald, Gordon and a few others. The first meeting—attended by ten or a dozen students—was held December 14th, 1872, in the vestry of Chalmers Church, when it was resolved to establish a students' meeting for prayer. Application was made to the college authorities for permission to meet in one of the class-rooms; this, however, was denied, but an application for the use of the vestry of Chalmers Church met with better success. Many, even of those who organized the meeting, were not very sanguine of its permanency, but time showed that the steps taken were judicious and timely; and although a modest notice on the bulletin board at the opening of each session was the only advertisement used, yet the interest, at first largely confined to Freshmen and Sophomores, extended to Juniors and Seniors as well. The meetings continued to be held in Chalmers Church till the winter of '79, when a committee of students succeeded in securing Class-room No. 2—where the meetings are at present conducted.

A decade has now passed since the meeting was organized. Of those connected with it in its early stages, Purves, Sutherland and Archibald have been removed by death, and widely separated indeed are their graves—Switzerland, California and Nova Scotia containing their ashes. Like other students' meetings this one has had its "day of small things" and its "time of plenty;" at present not a few avail themselves of its privileges—while many who have left our halls and are engaged in the active duties of life, still retain their interest in it and look back upon its old associations as a bright landmark in their college life, to which they revert with grateful feelings and most pleasant recollections.

Following the notice in last GAZETTE, the next announcement is as follows:

December 16. Subject: The Manliness of Christ. Mr. Smith, Chairman.

December 23. Subject: The Christian's Joy. Mr. Campbell, Chairman.—COM.

AMONG THE COLLEGES.

TWENTY Harvard men are on the staff of the *New York Sun*.

"GENTLEMEN and fellow-students," is the way a Harvard Professor begins his lecture.

PRINCETON has received upward of \$2,500,000 since Dr. McCosh took charge.

VIENNA has 4,853 students: more than any other European university.

THE oldest Baptist college in Iowa, the Des Moines University, has suspended with an indebtedness of \$15,000.

KNOX COLLEGE, Toronto, receives \$50,000 from Mr. J. McLaren for the endowment of a Systematic Theology chair.

THERE have been 184 woman students at Michigan University during 1882. Of this number 110 were in the Literary department.

THE regents of the University of Nebraska have appropriated \$150 to the *Hesperian Student*, the students' publication of that institution.

MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE has in all 59 students; 35 per cent. of the graduates are B.A.'s, while 75 per cent. of the students are university graduates.

EVERY Governor of Massachusetts receives LL.D., from Harvard; but as Ben Butler once declared that "The Harvard faculty ought to be hung," the *Yale News* wants to know what the goody-good school is going to do about it.

CENTRAL COLLEGE, in Missouri, was founded in 1859, has a productive endowment of \$110,000, and buildings worth \$60,000. In 1882 it had seven professors and one hundred and seventy students.

AT Glasgow University in the Session of '80-81 there were in all 2,304 students, while at Aberdeen the number was 475. The graduates from the former amounted to 285,—from the latter, 214

HARVARD has the largest college library in the United States. It contains 185,000 volumes. Yale has 93,000; Dartmouth, 60,000; Brown, 52,000; Princeton, 49,000; Cornell, 40,000; Wesleyan, 31,000; University of Michigan,

29,000; Tufts, 25,000; Williams, 19,000; and Dickinson, 29,000.

YALE AND HARVARD may be taken as the most expensive Colleges in the United States, and Brown University as more moderate. A Yaleman's or Harvardite's expenses average about \$900 each year, while the average at Brown University sinks as low as \$450 per annum. The expenses at Toronto University are as follows:—Tuition fees, \$20; usual board for the academic year 31 weeks—\$124; subscriptions for games, clubs, societies, etc., \$20; books, \$40. Thus \$250 per academic year is about the average cost at Toronto University.

DALLUSIENSIA.

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

"Do you think I'm a machine?"

THE elephantine Cape Bretoner: "Give us a c—w."

ONE of the "team" says he received a frightful *welt* on the head at Wolfville.

"THE intuitive Freshman" should conceal the divine passion.

IT is currently reported that the "Zulu" can sing Gaelic songs.

THE team wanted to know why a Pullman was not provided for them.

ALL at Acadia were struck with admiration of the massive form of our philosopher.

A FRESH asks whether the work will be easier after holidays.

DO not beggar yourselves buying Christmas cards. A two dollar and a half one should gratify the most æsthetic taste.

A JUNIOR thinks that "the intuitive Freshman's" style of oratory is comparable to that of Gladstone.

THE gymnastic evolutions of some of the team on the way home were something marvellous to behold.

ONE of the Physics class says that the best way to judge of the "strength of wine" is by taking two or three glasses.

TEACHER: "Who is the meanest man?"
Pupil: "The man who always uses other people's tobacco."

OUR old friend the "Artist" has kindly sent us some imaginary sketches of the doings at W. They are to be forwarded to *Grip*.

ALAS! Alas!! How inexpressible was the disappointment manifested by the Dalhousians on learning that they could not be conducted through the sacred precincts of the "Sem."

THE following was discovered in an autograph album, and is understood to be the effusion of a lettered Freshman:

"In memory's wood-box
Keep one chip for me."

ONE of the Sophs. who went to Wolfville on the ambulance committee, sadly neglected his duties. Instead of exercising a watchful care over the precious bodies of the team, it seemed more congenial to his nature to take charge of some young ladies. We believe that certain other fair ones could explain the eagerness of some of the team to go up.

PERSONALS.

J. A. JOHNSON, Freshman of '81-82, is teaching in Painsboro, Cumberland Co.

WENDELL MACLEAN, a Freshman of last year, can be found at Buckley's drug-store, Halifax.

A. E. THOMPSON, B. A., '80, has passed his first examination in medicine at Edinburgh University very creditably.

AMONG those who have been named as distinguishing themselves at the exam. in Natural Science at Trinity College, Oxford, is Mr. John Waddell, B. A., '77.

W. H. SPENCER, B. A., '81, is taking his theological course at Pine Hill. At this institution may also be found A. W. MAHON, a former Editor of the GAZETTE.

WE are pleased to notice the continued success of a popular Dalhousian, Mr. HOWARD MURRAY, the Gilchrist Scholar of 1881. At the Junior Arts exam. of University College, London, he carried off three prizes; and at the Intermediate B. A. exam. of the University of London, held last summer, he greatly distinguished himself, and was well up in the First

Division. In a subsequent exam. he obtained honors in Latin.

It is the pleasing duty of the Personals Editor to record the fact that during the summer no less than three graduates have resolved that it is not good for man to be alone. First we notice that H. A. BAYNE, M. A., Ph. D., Professor at the Kingston Military College, has taken to himself a wife. A. H. MCKAY, B. A., '73, Principal of Pictou Academy, too, has deserted the single state; and F. S. KINSMAN, B. A., '80, has become a Benedict. We congratulate them one and all.

CLIPPINGS.

AN æsthetic Sophomore worked it out as follows: "H₂S = H H S = horribly horrid stench."

He said her hair was dyed; and when she indignantly said: "'Tis false!" he said he presumed so.

THIS notice is conspicuously hung up in a Texas saw-mill: "Notis—Doant munky with the buz saw when in moshun."

PROFESSOR to sleepy student: "If you wish I will send out for a bed." Sleepy student, with great *sang froid*: "Don't go to that trouble, sir; I have a *crib* with me."

SON: "Father, the lecturer at the hall to-night said that lunar rays were only the concentrated luminosity of the earth's satellite. What do you think about it?" Intelligent parent: "All moonshine, my son, all moonshine."

BOTANY CLASS.—Ignorant Soph. to Professor: "What would be the best way for me to tell a mushroom from a toadstool?" Prof: "By eating it. If you live it is a mushroom; if you die it is a toadstool."

AT a recent school examination the son of a coal dealer was asked how many pounds there were to a ton. He was sharp enough to reply: "Maybe you think I'm going to give it away and get licked when I go home."

TEACHER: "Class in Geography stand. What is a strait?" Small Boy (*Next to the foot*): "A straight beats two pairs, three of a kind, and generally takes the pot unless some fellow happens to have a cold deck slipped up his coat-sleeve." Teacher: "Let us pray."

AT night: Some students singing "'Tis love that makes the world go round!" Old gentleman, who is leaning against a lamp-post: "Zthought th' was something wrong about that whiskey."

A FARMER who had some cider to sell was pricing teas, and found that they had risen several cents a pound. "What's made tea riz?" said he. "Scarcity of tea-chests," said the merchant. However, he agreed to take some, to be paid for in cider. "How much's your cider?" asked the merchant. "Twenty cents." "Twenty cents!" cried the merchant; "What are you asking such a price as that for?" "Cause bung-holes is scarce," replied the farmer.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Rev. L. H. Jordan, M. A., B. D., Rev. D. Stiles Fraser, B. A., \$2 each; Rev. J. C. Herdman, M. A., B. D., \$1.10; W. E. Jenkins, Willard Macdonald, M. G. Allison, Thomas Stewart, B. A., George Fisher, W. McC. Thomson, H. S. Freeman, \$1 each.

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