

The Dalhousie Gazette.

ORA ET LABORA.

VOL. XVI.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 24, 1883.

No. 4.

" 'TIS CHRISTMAS EVE."

"Set all the chimneys roaring with great fires,
And I'll be with you ere the midnight bells
Ring in the glory of the Christmas morn,
And peace and goodwill once again are born.

"Give welcome to the Christmas tide,
That time to all most dear,
Welcome the day our fathers loved,
With gladness and good cheer.

"Without the door let sorrow lie ;
And if for cold it hap to die,
We'll bury't in a Christmas pie
And evermore be merry."

'Tis Christmas Eve! What a variety of hallowed recollections the words bring back to us! What a flood of pleasant remembrances of former friends and former home-gatherings we can conjure up at their mention! Which one of us has not felt the pleasures of a Christmas Eve? Who has not seen the family gathering where sons long absent meet once more under the paternal roof? Oh the joys of such occasions!

But it is not of these, however, we purpose speaking in this article. We are going to discuss more serious matters. In opening, let us ask the question, "Is Christmas, Christmas?" Rather a ridiculous question to ask, you say, but let me explain. Does Christmas really celebrate, as it is intended to do, the birth of our Saviour? Is the 25th of December the day on which the greatest event in history took place? Was this the night in which the Shepherds kept watch and first heard the "good tidings of great joy?"

In a communication to the GAZETTE two years ago, on the same subject as that on which I now write, I used the following words; "It is certain that the day we celebrate can not be our Lord's natal day, for the month of December is part of the rainy season in Judæa, when it would

be an impossibility for shepherds to remain out during the night." Since that time, however, I have had in my possession a volume devoted to the investigation of this question; and after a long argument the author, (the late learned Dr. Jarvis,) decides in the affirmative. His arguments in support of his position are both powerful and numerous. From the most important of these I make some abstracts. Christ, it is admitted, was born in a period of universal peace; in token of which the temple of Janus was shut in the time of Augustus Cæsar. It was shut, we know, in the seventh year before the Christian era, probably on March 30th. Our Lord, too, was born before the death of Herod the Great, on March 21st, B. C. 4. Consequently, the limits of time, within which the inquiry lies, are March 30th, B. C. 7, and March 21st, B. C. 4. And as a number of events in our Lord's life occurred before Herod died, the date is probably nearer B. C. 7 than B. C. 4. Having established these truths by arguments, the most elaborate, Dr. Jarvis proceeds to the next note of time, viz., Luke's saying that on the occasion of his baptism "Jesus began to be about thirty years of age." Shortly before, we are told, that in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Cæsar, John the Baptist began his preaching. This is shown to be the fifteenth year of Tiberius' *associate* reign, which began in February, A. D. 24, and ended in February, A. D. 25. Further, we read, that Pontius Pilate was governor of Judæa, and we know that he did not begin his proconsulship before Aug. 19th, A. D. 24. Of necessity quite a time elapsed between the commencement of John's ministry and our Saviour's baptism. We cannot therefore be far wrong in supposing that his baptism, (and therefore his birth,) took place near January

1st, A. D. 25. The old christian church, or rather a tradition of it, ascribed his baptism to January 6th of the same year. Assuming this tradition to be true, Jesus "began to be about thirty years of age." Therefore his birth was near the same date. Now between Dec. 25th and Jan. 6th there are but twelve days; so that it is at least highly probable that Dec. 25th was His natal day. Dr. Jarvis, however, is not to be satisfied with mere probability. He goes farther. He tells us that the Eastern Church, till the fourth century, celebrated January 6th. In the time of Chrysostom, as we learn from his sermon preached on the occasion, the Eastern Church acknowledged the correctness of the Western Church, in celebrating the Nativity at the time they did, Dec. 25th. We are informed that they were induced to do so, by the appeal of the Western fathers to the record of census, taken by the order of Augustus Cæsar at the time of Christ's birth (see Luke ii., 1-5), and which was stored up among the Roman archives. From this ancient manuscript, the day of our Saviour's birth had been obtained by the Western Church, and the 25th of December is that day. Such is in brief the argument of Dr. Jarvis, *pro*. I have already given you the only one *con* that I know. Choose ye between them. However you decide will make little difference, for we will go on celebrating the day just as usual.

Though Christmas is a Christian festival, nevertheless the same portion of the year had been for a long time before the Christian Era set apart as a season of gaiety. It was towards the close of December that the Roman Saturnalia were held. While this celebration was going on nothing that did not tend to merriment was allowed. Even the slaves tasted for a time the sweets of freedom in the glorious *libertate Decembri*. (See Horace Sat. Bk. II. 7). Since Saturnalia and Christmas were synchronous it was not hard for the Church to turn the pagan festival into a Christian one.

Christmas is memorable as a time for giving presents, or Christmas boxes, as they are called. Now there are two different ways of accounting for the term "boxes." I'll give you both. The first explains it in this way. It had become an

established custom to sing masses on the eve of the Nativity, (hence the word Christmas); and servants and the lower classes of the people were allowed to go round among their richer friends and neighbours with boxes, to collect money to pay for masses recited by the priests for their dead relatives. Hence the word box. The second makes the term more English in its derivation. A Christmas box was originally a gift, generally of money, given to persons of an inferior rank, by those whose position in life was better. Thus the draper gave presents to the servants of his customers, while the draper's apprentice, box in hand, went round to the residences of his master's patrons, soliciting from them "the yearly mite." The practice is thus described:—

" Gladly, the boy, with Christmas box in hand
Throughout the town his devious route pursues;
And, of his master's customers implores
The yearly mite; often his cash he shakes,
The which, perchance, of coppers few consists;
Whose dulcet jingle fills his little soul
With joy."

In early times, the Church, to please the nations who had accepted Christianity, introduced into the services they held at Christmas, dramatic representations of certain portions of scripture. The scene most frequently portrayed was that grandest of all scenes, that of "the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." From these biblical tableaux sprung the Christmas carols or "Manger Songs," as they were originally called. Edition after edition of these has been published, the earliest being that printed at the beginning of the sixteenth century. One of these carols—a very old English one—I quote:

" The cock croweth *Christus Natus est*,
The raven asketh *Quando*,
The crow replieth *Hæc nocte*,
The ox cryeth out *Ubi! Ubi!*
The sheep bleateth forth *Bethlehem! Bethlehem!*
A voice from heaven sounded, saying, *Gloria in Excelsis.*"

The above has already appeared in the GAZETTE, but it will bear repeating.

As may be expected there were many curious superstitions connected with Christmas. One of these was, that on the eve of the great day, the oxen would fall down on their knees, as they were said to have done in Bethlehem on the eve of the Nativity. Again if Christmas fell on

Wednesday, it was considered an omen of war, but if on Thursday of peace. Again we are told

" that ever against that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say no spirit can walk abroad;
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the tune."

Most curious of all was the belief that from the twelve days immediately succeeding Christmas we could prognosticate the weather for the next twelve months.

One grand old Christmas institution still survives, though carol singing and wassail drinking have passed away. I refer to mince pies. It is "heresy and schism" to eat these on Thanksgiving Day, but you may partake of them *ad libitum* on Christmas. The orthodox mince pie is made of an oblong shape to represent the "cratch" or manger in which the Saviour was laid and is composed of all sorts of spices and sweets (of Eastern growth, if possible,) to commemorate the offering of spices, made by "the wise men," when they came to worship.

To those who have followed me thus far,—may I will be generous,—to all your readers, I wish A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

LORD LORNE—LORD LANDSDOWNE.

BY JUNIUS.

II.

It would scarcely be the whole of the truth to say that all the hopes have been realized which were first entertained in society circles when it was known that the daughter of the Queen would spend five years at Ottawa. In the arena of society much excitement prevailed for some little time after the arrival of the political and social leaders. There were great expectations and high hopes. The *elite* of the capital and of the metropolis were on tip-toe for the expectant gaieties. But all those schemes which were so carefully laid have, indeed, been found Utopian. No attempts have been made to establish an European court upon this side of the water. At Rideau-Hall life has been of more than republican simplicity. Of the Governors-General who preceded Lorne none lived more simply than our last representative of the Queen. It is gratifying to know that their Excellen-

cies set a more eminent example than many who surrounded them. Their energies were exerted upon works of sympathy and of love. In any pursuits distinguished for benevolence they were almost certain either to lead or to occupy a prominent position. The Royal Art Society of Canada is an institution which exists through the influence and the patronage of the Princess. Being herself an accomplished artist the Princess has taken a great deal of pains to elevate art in Canada to that high position which it occupies in the Old Country. And her efforts in this connection have been signally successful. A real beginning has been made in the school of art, and many young but promising artists are already in the field. It is to be regretted, however, that the Princess enjoyed such poor health while residing among us. The dual accidents which happened to Her Highness, and her subsequent serious indispositions were not only unfortunate in themselves, but unfavorable to the Dominion. At all events they have caused the sympathies of all loyal Canadians to be extended to Her Highness, and it is the earnest and united wish of our people that nothing further may occur to mar the serenity of the Princess's life either at her Royal home or in the Empire over which Her Majesty's sceptre holds full dominion.

At the parting hour the hearty good will that was displayed by the citizens of Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec toward the ex-Governor-General and his lady was a brilliant testimony of the high regard in which the Vice-Royal couple is held by Canada's fair sons and daughters. The farewell respects tendered to H. R. H. and the Marquis as they stood for the last time—at least for a while—upon the deck of the *Sardinian* and bid good-bye to Canada and to Canadians were filled with tokens of the kindest regards and the warmest love. As the steamer with its precious freight glided down the St. Lawrence, one of the most brilliant assemblages that ever congregated in the old city of Quebec, stood with glistening eyes and with handkerchiefs uplifted in the breeze, while the roaring of the cannon from the ancient citadel and from the fortresses that line the shore was mingled with the voices of the people as cheer after cheer was carried upon the wings of the wind. The playing by the band of "God save the Queen" and "Auld Lang Syne" was *apropos* the occasion, and it is said that the departing Royalty was much affected by the scene.

Thus departed one of the most illustrious Governors-General who has ever presided over the affairs of Canada. And not only is it cause for regret that the kindly face of the Marquis has gone from among us, but he has taken with him one of the fairest of the family of our noble Queen. The Princess Louise has endeared herself to the hearts of all Canadian men and women by her characteristic kindness and amiable disposition, and although separated from us by a wide waste of water her memory will ever live fresh and green in the affections of all Canadian people who are loyal to the Crown which adorns the head of our beloved Sovereign, Queen Victoria.

CROWDING one upon another in quick succession the events of the times move steadily and rapidly on. "No hammer in the horologe of time peals through the universe to proclaim a change from era to era." The most significant epochs in our history steal by us unawares. The little excitement consequent upon the change of Governors-General has passed away and Lord Lansdowne has settled down to the discharge of his duties as the fifth occupant of Rideau Hall. Although several of those who went before have been men of eminent talents, it might be truthfully said that none of them could surpass the head of the house of Lansdowne in many of the attributes that go to form a distinguished statesman and an accomplished orator.

His Excellency's reception and the subsequent inaugural ceremonies at Quebec were of the customary *eclat*. The brilliant illumination of the parliamentary buildings and grounds which greeted his arrival at Ottawa, and the whole arrangement of the reception at the capital were of the most gratifying nature to the new acquisition of British authority at Canada's political centre. The welcome which he received must have been extremely edifying to Lord Lansdowne, for it was not of an altogether ceremonious or ostentatious character. The immense body of Irishmen in Canada whose sympathies are in harmony with those of the Marquis was of itself a sufficient guarantee that his arrival would be greeted with a burst of enthusiasm from at least the Celtic group of our population. Yet the good feeling has not been confined to his own countrymen, but has pervaded all classes of society, for if Canada ever needed a man of ability and experience to manage her public affairs it is at the present moment, and there is every reason to believe that the wisdom of his appointment will be amply vindicated, for to unquestionable ability he adds the most conscientious industry and untiring zeal. With qualities such as these our Governor-General will be perfectly competent to undertake a supervision of the workings of our constitutional machinery, and there is no reason to doubt that he will be able to cope with any questions that may arise during his term of office, for they are not likely to be excessive in quantity or to be of a difficult character to perform satisfactorily alike to himself and to Canadians.

The long chain of traditions and the illustrious antecedents of the Marquis mark him out as a nobleman of high rank as well as a man of talents, who is well fitted for the exalted post which he has chosen. His father was Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs after the Crimean War; for some twenty years his grand-father was a Cabinet Minister; and his great grand-father was the celebrated Earl of Shelburne the colleague and successor of the Marquis of Rockingham. It will thus be seen that a political career in the present Lansdowne would be nothing more than the natural order of things and in this respect he is evidently destined to maintain the family prestige. From 1869 to 1872 he was Lord of the Treasury, and was then made Under-Secretary of War, which office he held till the fall of the Gladstone Government in 1874.

After the Liberal victory in 1880 he was selected for the position of Under-Secretary of India, but finding that he could not agree with the policy of the Government in reference to the Irish question he preferred to resign rather than to support a Government with whose land policy he could not coincide.

To all who have watched the progress of the Land Question in its various stages of development, the independent attitude assumed by Lord Lansdowne will be readily understood. Being himself one of the largest land owners in Ireland, and one of those much-abused Irish landlords who have figured so prominently of recent years, it is quite reasonable to suppose that his political relations would hardly be in perfect accord with those of the British Government. But by appointing him to the splendid and dignified position which he now occupies the Prime Minister of England has shown that he does not consider a divergence of opinion upon one of the great national questions of the day as any bar to a hearty co-operation in another department. And just here we see a disposition upon the part of the British Cabinet that might well be emulated nearer home. A just conception of the value of a combination of admirable qualities so highly adapted to the office of Governor-General is also a striking feature in Mr. Gladstone's appointment, and the grand old man has once more exhibited a spirit of patriotism and an appreciation of sterling merit worthy of the greatest statesman that England has ever called her own.

It must be a pleasure for Lord Lansdowne to know that in Canada he is surrounded by men of his own nationality. A large portion of our population are direct descendants of the inhabitants of the Green Isle, and form one of the most stable and valuable of the industrial elements of our country; and in his new sphere of labour he will be constantly brought into contact with Irishmen. When the announcement of his appointment was first made public the disaffected Irish press in America, and the more hostile sheets in Ireland, sounded a note of warning as to what would follow if the appointment was carried into effect. The organs of the irreconcilables in New York and elsewhere were profuse in their denunciations of the selection of an Irish landlord to superintend the welfare of the British flag in Canada. Nothing too severe could be said at the time, nor could there be quoted in public any inflammatory remarks or speeches of an offensive or derogatory type that were considered by the dynamite clique as too comprehensive for a practical platform. A repetition of the Phoenix Park tragedy was sure to follow in the footsteps of the new Governor-General immediately upon the arrival of that gentleman in America, and the harshest means would be employed to bring the British Government to its senses. It is well to know, however, that threats have multiplied much faster than they have been executed. Beyond the explosions in the London underground railway, no evidences are at hand to force a conclusion that our Irish friends over the border are more valorous than prudent. Our new Viceroy has not been disturbed by the rhetorical flights of these communistic malcontents. The smoothness and harmony of every-day life at the

capital has not been rudely broken, and there are no indications that it will be. No class of people could display more sturdy virtues, or less disloyalty to Her Majesty, than the Canadian Irish. All the emigrants that have yet settled in British North America have no common interests with the clamoring hordes that are pleased to make known their hatred of the Union Jack by calling themselves Land Leaguers, Nationalists, Home Rulers or something else. This class of Erin's migratory vassals have taken up their quarters under the Stars and Stripes where they find their sympathies cultivated and their hostility to all English institutions looked upon as a virtue. The United States is a perfect hotbed of disorder, and is the very theatre of all the important movements of the most radical factions of the Irish party. From thence have issued the decrees that have caused the whole Irish movement to be condemned by all intelligent men as a murder league. It has been American support and American dollars that have kept Irish agitators upon their feet, and the most brutal results that have been the outgrowth of the Irish agitation may well be laid at the doors of Irish Americans. It is true that Canadian branches of the Land League have been a source of pecuniary assistance to the parent evil in Ireland, but our people have never shown any symptoms of bloodthirstiness. We have forwarded remittances, but we have never sanctioned the murderous measures that have been concocted and executed by the willfully malicious leaders of the so-called Nationalist party. Those who sympathized with the movement in Canada have restrained themselves and kept their passions within proper bounds. Not so in the cities of the Republic. The very canker that has been gnawing at the vitals of the British Government has grown and developed under the protection of the American eagle. And it is not to be wondered at that a hue of vexation should have arisen when Lord Lansdowne was commissioned to look after our affairs. But the fever has burnt itself out. When resolutions are prompted by ignorance they are not likely to be carried out, and the whole history of the Irish agitation has been a continuous line of criminal blunders. The great body of grossly ignorant Irish peasantry who nursed the fires of agitation until they fanned them into a living flame, are, after all, not so much a fault as the slightly more intelligent men who, upon the floors of the British Parliament espouse the cause of Irish rights, and act the part of obstructionists. Yet it is a singular fact that the worst phases of the Irish question are illustrated in the United States. It is men of the O'Donovan Rossa stamp, disgraceful barbarians, who have done the harm, and who should never have escaped the peculiar physical dexterity of Marwood. But, after all, no one has suffered more in the estimation of the public, than those who promised in glowing periods of invective to extinguish the last remnant of English life and property.

Lord Lansdowne is not the man best suited for a Fenian gunpowder target. It is true that he comes under the category of the landed aristocracy. His estate is one of the most extensive in all Ireland, and

his tenantry are numerous. Yet there is a wide divergence between his methods of managing his tenants and the means adopted by the majority of Irish landlords. His tenants have repeatedly honored him by frankly confessing that they had no fault to find with him in regard to the way in which he dealt with them. In fine, everything goes to show that he has been, in all respects, a model landlord, who has harbored no feelings for the Irish pessimists and moonlighters other than those of aversion, and who has ever been found conceding when concessions were necessary, and adopting every policy calculated to elevate the condition of his tenantry. He has proven times without number that he has no kindred sympathies with lawlessness in any shape or form, whether directed for or against landlordism. He believes simply in the principles of right and wrong and in all cases justice, and no one can charge him with countenancing any of the base trickery that has characterized the wars of the Land League *versus* aristocracy and *vice versa*. Dealing fairly and squarely with his tenants he has always looked for fair play in return, and it can truly be said that it has been generously accorded him. He has never been guilty of any of those petty and degrading devices that have lowered so many Irish landlords. Neither by precept or example has he encouraged the practice of evicting without just and adequate cause, a cruelty that has been so graphically described by English writers. It would therefore be foolhardiness for any class of men, be they "Saxon, Celt, or Turk," to attempt to breed a feeling of discontent because an Irish landlord of the spotless character of Canada's Governor General has received one of the most dignified positions in the power of Her Majesty to confer.

The touching tributes of loyalty which Lord Lansdowne received from the tenantry of Baronscourt during his last day in Ireland, were a pleasing contrast to the ribaldry and cold lead that have frequently saluted Irish landlords in their own country. The valedictory was a brilliant token of the good fellowship that exists between the Irish people and the Marquis of Lansdowne. For that unerring indicator of the facts and beauties of oratory, the photographic art, has revealed to us the eloquence of the several speeches which the marquis delivered upon the day of his departure. At Derby his reply to the farewell address of the Mayor and Corporation was an effort that would win any man the title of an eloquent speaker. His pleasing references to the cordial relations that existed between Ireland and Canada were not only sketched in the language of flowing rhetoric, like a crystal rill gurgling from a rock, but bore the most convincing testimony that the speaker is a cultivated and well informed man, with an intimate knowledge of the affairs of the Dominion. It is evident that Lord Dufferin is not destined to be the only clever Irishman who has acted as viceroy to the Dominion of Canada, for the supremacy will evidently have to be shared 'twixt himself and his second successor.

Our new Governor General will doubtless continue

in the footsteps of Lord Lorne in the matter of promoting emigration to the Dominion. His predecessor made it one of the first considerations of his office that no stone should be left unturned that would aid in the solution of the question of how to people the millions of acres that are now unclaimed property. It is one of the most vital problems that engage the attention of Canada's statesman and well-wishers. Not only the North-West requires to be populated, but every section of the Dominion. Even in our own Province there is room for two or three times our present population. In Ontario and Manitoba thousands of farms are waiting to be tickled with a hoe to laugh into a harvest, and when we come to the great Northwest, it seems as if the people of all Europe might be emptied into its plains without conflict. Indeed, as a gigantic problem of national economy it well deserves the study of the best intellects of the age; for upon its immediate and thorough solution, is based the future happiness of the Dominion. All the important issues that now attract the attention of our legislators are, in some way or other, directly or indirectly involved in this absorbing question. To build up, strengthen, and populate our vast heritage with a people that will assist in solidifying the bonds that unite us to the Mother Country is certainly a grand and worthy object, and we feel well assured that it will be one of the first and last things to which Lord Lansdowne will bend his energies and his skill. His familiarity with the requirements of Irish emigrants, and his great popularity in those parts of Ireland where his name is a household word, ought to enable him to do more than any of the illustrious men who have preceded him in attracting Canadawards the broad wave of emigration that flows in an ever-deepening stream from the congested portions of the Green Isle.

Ever since the gates of Eden were closed upon the retreating forms of Adam and Eve, ignorance has been the supreme barrier to civilization. Indolence, vice, and oppression, some of its offspring, have resulted from the arrogance of the great masses of the Irish poor. Worked up and goaded on to deeds of desparation by the instigators of the free-soil party, a natural prejudice has been aroused against landlordism, and every associate of the name. Revelations of the past convince us that there are many in Ireland connected with the revolutionary movement who will do their best to oppose any scheme for the settlement of Irish tenant farmers upon Canadian soil, and who will seek to direct all their influence towards establishing a prejudicial feeling against the Dominion, solely because an Irish landlord is its Governor-General. Many severe attempts will be made to frustrate any designs for the promotion of extensive emigration projects for the benefit of the peasantry, and for the good of Canada. The elements of superstition that go so largely towards the composition of the natures of the poorest of the Irish poor, will be taken advantage of, inasmuch as the people will, in many cases, be made to believe that something as bad as the rack rent system will develop itself under the

regime of Lord Lansdowne. But such ideas cannot be made permanent, even in the minds of the most bigoted Irish. Some day the veil will suddenly drop from their eyes, and then the victims of oily tongued orators who have been persuaded either to go to the United States or to stay at home will bitterly repent their dependence upon those whose thoughts are wrapped up in the spoilation of English institutions. The flag so repulsive to the Nationalists will lose none of its beauty, strength, and gracefulness, because of that deep-dyed hatred, but will ever continue to fly unsullied over the four quarters of the globe. There will doubtless, in a very short time, be many schemes set on foot for the removal to the grain centres of the West of tens of thousands of Irish, Scotch, and English families, who will be a fruitful source of income to the Dominion and at one and the same time assist in the solving of this perplexing question, and add to the solidity of the Empire, and the universal prosperity of the realm.

In Lady Lansdowne, Canadian society has received a valuable acquisition. As an accomplished, and yet domestic lady, the Marchioness has been highly spoken of, and has won many bright encomiums and a host of golden opinions from the people with whom she has been associated in the old world. In Vice-Regal life she has had considerable experience. When her father, the Duke of Abercon, was Viceroy of Ireland from 1866 to 1868, she was an invaluable assistant in discharging all those delicate social duties inseparable from such a dignified position. During the time her father reigned in Dublin castle he was honored with a visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales, and as the Duke was then a widower the festivities that marked the occasion were splendidly presided over by Lady Lansdowne. Besides her long and brilliant lineage, the Marchioness claims a noble French ancestry, her father being the male descendant of the Regent Arms, the first Duke of Chatelherault, in France.

It will thus be seen that the elevated tone, and the brilliant character and lineage of the occupants of Rideau Hall, who have presided over Dominion affairs during the last quarter of a century, will be in no way lessened by the arrival of Lord and Lady Lansdowne. On the contrary it may be truthfully observed that the wisdom of the choice of the head of the House of Lansdowne to protect our interests, and cause a smooth and harmonious working of our Dominion affairs will be proved beyond a doubt, and judging from the records of the past will be full of credit to himself, and the noble family which he is pleased to represent. When we think of such names as those of Baron Metcalfe, Lord Elgin, Sir Edmund Head, Lord Monck, Lord Lisgar, Lord Dufferin, and the Marquis of Lorne, we recall a list of men who have faithfully discharged the duties appertaining to their offices, and who have acted the part of thorough loyalists, and vindicated the authority of the Crown. In saying, long live the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne, we feel confident that we are reiterating the sentiments of all Canadians who delight to point to the British

flag as the guardian of their rights, and the Royal emblem of the greatest power the world has ever known.

AMONG THE COLLEGES.

ALBERT College is to unite with Victoria.

VICTORIA University has 32 freshmen.

COLUMBIA College has a library of 75,000 volumes.

THE Freshman class at Oxford numbers 625.

THERE are 35 students in Residence at King's College this year.

ST. ANDREW'S has received a bequest of \$150,000 to found bursaries.

GLASGOW University Library has upwards of 120,000 volumes.

SEVENTY-FIVE persons failed to pass the first examination in the Columbia law school.

HARVARD has not won a game of football from Yale since 1875.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL has been elected Lord Rector of the oldest Scottish University—St. Andrews.

THE Dartmouth not only pays its own expenses but usually has a small margin to divide among its editors.

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology has 176 freshmen.

IN the contest for the Rectorship at Edinburgh, Sir Stafford Northcote received 1035 votes, Mr. G. O. Trevelyan 983, and Prof. Blackie 236.

THE annual expense incident to the foundation of Fellowships at Toronto University will amount to \$5,000.

THE McGill University Gazette appears in a new dress this year. Its columns are as usual well filled with interesting matter.

THE Legislature of New Hampshire will hereafter give \$5,000 annually to Dartmouth College in aid of indigent students.

THE first number of the *Morrin College Review* for the present collegiate year has reached us. The paper is a highly creditable one.

EIGHT per cent. of McGill students come from the Maritime Provinces. This is something for the heads of our Provincial Colleges to ponder over.

THE catalogue of Dartmouth College shows an attendance in all departments of 430 students. The Library contains 61,885 volumes. Sixty-nine scholarships of \$70 each are offered to indigent students.

MR. GOODERHAM offers to give a lot of land valued at \$20,000, as well as substantial aid to the Methodists, if they will remove their institutions to Toronto.

THERE are 20 Universities in Germany. Of these Berlin has the greatest number in attendance, 2,880.

Leipzig has 3,000; Munich, 2,000, and the others from 1,500 to 250, a total of 25,520 students, of which number 7,000 are Americans.

THE "Didactics" controversy flourishes as vigorously as ever. Dr. Saunders has concluded a series of letters on the subject, which has given rise to more correspondence. The war has now developed into a struggle between the younger Alumni and the established "authorities." This phase of the matter we shall watch with interest.

"STATE aid to Colleges" is now the burning subject in Ontario. In our opinion the claims of University College is strong, and it is scarcely expected that the Government will reverse the policy adopted so many years ago. The denominational colleges are hardly improving their case by the fierceness with which they assail the University of Toronto.

THE Queen's College Football team was recently beaten by the Victorias. Principal Grant was present at a banquet given by the defeated to the victors and said, "he believed in all manly games, for their influence on character was very great and very beneficial." The students of the Royal College have had their annual dinner; representatives from McGill, Trinity and Toronto were present.

OUT of a population of 25,000,000, England sends only 5,000 students to her two universities. Scotland, with a population of 4,000,000, has 6,500 university students, and Germany, with a population of 43,000,000, has 22,500 in her various universities. The New England States, with a population of 4,110,000, send nearly 4,000 students to their eighteen colleges and universities.

A CURIOUS action is pending in the Sheriff's Court at Glasgow. Professor Caird has applied for an injunction to restrain a bookseller from publishing a pamphlet entitled, "Aid to the Study of Moral Philosophy, especially designed for students." The book is said to be a shorthand report of the professor's lectures taken verbatim by some student attending them. The lectures were delivered from MSS. notes, and Prof. Caird is evidently afraid of how they will look in print, for he says they are "ignorantly taken down" and the book will be "misleading." The Sheriff granted an interim injunction. An act passed in William IV's reign, gives a copyright to lectures, but not lectures delivered in a university.

WE have received the following:—*Presbyterian College Journal, Wollestock Gazette, Oxford and Cambridge Undergraduates Journal, Acadia Athenaeum, Argosy, Niagara Index, Comet, University Monthly, Astrum Alberti, Varsity, Society Journal, Bates Student, and Academician.*

REV. RICHMOND LOGAN, M. A., has been inducted to the Presbyterian congregation of Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.

The Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 24, 1883.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

EDITORS.

D. A. MURRAY, '84. V. COFFIN, '86.
I. GAMMELL, '85. J. A. MACDONALD, B.A., (Law), '86.
R. M. LANGILLE, '85. W. CROWE, (Law), '86.
W. B. TAYLOR, '84, *Financial Secretary.*

CONTENTS.

"'Tis Christmas Eve"	41
Lord Lorne—Lord Landsdowne— (Concluded)	43
Among the Colleges	47
Editorial	48, 49, 50
Correspondence	50
Sir Walter Scott the Poet	52
Breaking up	53
Law School Notes	54
College News	54
Dallusienia	55
Acknowledgments	56

☞ We request our subscribers to "pay up."

CHRISTMAS is almost here. That time-honoured festival, around which humanity has gathered so much of innocent joy, is with us again. And though to us, who (with some few exceptions) have passed the stage of thoughtless childhood and have solved the mystery of Santa Claus, it may bring a tinge of those regrets which the coming years will deepen, yet we are still as loyal to the day and memory of the mythical saint as when we watched for his coming with tremulous delight, or rose at dawn from our little beds to reap the fruits of his visit. This is the world's great holiday; and nothing is more beautiful than the legends and memories that cluster round it. What a wealth of poetry floats about it! What kindly thoughts and pleasant scenes its very name suggests! With a breezy vigor born of the Northern climes in which it most delights, it knocks boisterously at every door, and brings a glow of healthful pleasure into every face. At no time are we so tempted

to kick against the doctrine of total depravity as at this joyous Xmas season; for on no other occasion do the better qualities of human nature show such signs of existence. Hearts beat faster and more warmly; hands scatter more profusely; man's brotherhood advances a step from theory towards practice; the chilliest nature and the most desolate life yield to the magnetic influence of an all-prevailing cheer. It would seem indeed as if old Father Time were trying to reconcile us to the remorselessness of his advance by scattering along the way those resting-places of joy and jollity.

To us, as students, Xmas is chiefly welcome because of the brief cessation from work it brings. No lectures for a fortnight! The heart of the oppressed Freshie grows light at the thought, while the Soph., weeps tears of joy; the dignity of the Junior melts beneath the fervour of his emotions; words cannot express the feelings of the fourth year man. In our session, Xmas comes as a line of demarcation. On this side is comparative ease and safety; on the other nothing but "an awful looking-for of judgment." Hitherto we have dared to enjoy an occasional indulgence; a look ahead reveals, grimly waiting behind the burly figure of old St. Nicholas, only a long unbroken course of work, drawing us relentlessly into that awful abyss of maddening fears and blighted hopes—the sessional exams. Let us then make the most of our Christmas. Let not the shadows of April darken the joy of December, but let one and all enter into the heartiest life of the season, and show that study and cram have not warped our sense of enjoyment. And thou, O plugger!—thou whose soul is fast becoming a time-table—reverently deposit thy lexicon under the table and thy Euclid beneath the bed, and rise, if possible, to the occasion! And even if the sight of the Xmas goose suggest unutterable things to thee, be not thou dismayed nor be thy appetite diminished.

The great majority of our students will no doubt spend their holidays in the bosoms of their families, but to those poor unfortunates to whom fate denies this we extend our deepest sympathy. In imagination we see them as they hungrily haunt the deserted walls or prowl disconsolately

about the streets, and by the lurid glare of their homesick eye we note the ravages of a disease which the landlady's puddings may not allay. We are tempted to give them some good advice, but will refrain. And now we bid the passing year a reverent farewell, deeply grateful for the good it has brought us and the ill it has spared us, both as a College and as individuals. To the coming one we turn an eye of welcoming faith, and with the hope that our readers may find it chock-full of good things, we cordially wish them, one and all, a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

WE shall be met with no opposition when we say that the foundation of the Munro Exhibitions and Bursaries was one of the most important educational steps this Province has taken for many years. The "paper" University of Halifax in its short career made vastly more talk, but it came to an end ere it had well begun its infancy. Consolidation was the subject of much discussion but the Colleges will not consolidate, so there is an end of that. But while the former questions have engaged the best thought of the Province very little attention has been paid to the benefactions of Mr. Munro in respect of the Bursaries. And this is not to be wondered at; the former were topics showy and fruitful of controversy, a pastime in which many of our Provincial Professors take no small pleasure. The latter was a question admitting of no argument—the gift of Mr. Munro in this respect supplied a want long felt. We know that the Senate in the management of the Bursary funds have no easy task, on the contrary there must be very considerably difficulty; and we should be very sorry to embarrass them with any complaint on our part; nor do we propose to do so. We intend however to throw out some hints as to how the beneficial influence of the funds can be more widely felt.

An examination of the records will show that since their foundation in 1879 no less than 13 Bursaries or Exhibitions were unawarded, while in the same period 9 lapsed for want of candidates. Now of the former condition of affairs we have nothing to say. It is right that the standard be kept up. But the fact that nine valuable scholar-

ships—worth as they are \$150 and \$200 per year for two years—should go unclaimed is something we submit which upon the face of it is startling; and if this state of affairs continue we may well doubt if Mr. Munro's liberality has succeeded in stimulating "to greater activity and efficiency the High Schools and Academies of Nova Scotia and the neighbouring Provinces." To efficiency they certainly have not in all cases—as the 13 unawarded Bursaries attest—to activity in any marked degree we cannot say they have; though doubtless in some cases certain schools have felt a stimulus.

Now we propose to the authorities that they adopt the system of "local examinations,"—that is the holding of examinations at certain definite, central towns. We must admit that it is too much to ask a New Brunswick student to come all the way to Halifax, perchance to be "plucked." When competition is keen as it is in many cases there can be no wonder that some should decline to try for a place unless virtually sure of success. Were examination centres to be established say in St. John, Charlottetown, Pictou, Sydney, Yarmouth, and Liverpool, in addition to Halifax, there can be no question but that the number of matriculants would very largely be increased. The fact that the University would be more widely advertised would prove of no small advantage; and only in some such way can the greatest good be derived from Mr. Munro's liberality, the number of students be largely increased, and the "activity and efficiency" desired for High Schools and Academies be obtained.

WE would call attention to a communication in another column in reference to Sodales. It will be observed that our correspondent is not sufficiently impressed with the aims and objects of that Society. As a simple matter of duty we have year after year pointed out that the students should derive all the benefit possible from this our only College Society; and this we shall ever continue to do. We are glad however to learn that there is a desire for the formation of more clubs. These far from weakening Sodales would strengthen it. We have often

thought that Dalhousie had need of a more distinctively literary society than it has. There must be men amongst us who, while having no desire for debate, are yet anxious to secure benefits from organizations more in accord with their tastes. We think that the time has come when this College should have a society wholly given to literary pursuits. We know that years ago such was the case. The Senior and Junior years had the "Kritisophian" to themselves, leaving the other years to manage Sodales. It is not necessary that we should express any opinion as to our correspondent's criticism of its organization. The subject should come up for discussion at an early meeting of the club, when the views of the whole body of the students will be heard and the proper steps be taken to make Sodales the power it used to be.

WILL not some of the Alumni come to the aid of the Editors of the GAZETTE. We know there are many among their number who without much effort could lighten our labours very materially. We do not ask or expect ponderous essays, they would embarrass us; but short, vigorous articles would always be acceptable. We are not expecting too much of them when we say that they should take nearly full charge of the literary part of this paper, leaving us to strictly editorial work.

WE suggest that a general meeting of students be convened early after Christmas vacation to discuss the proposed lengthening of the session. It is a live subject and one of great importance to all, and seeing that it is in contemplation we should express our opinion upon it, that thereby the Senate may know what the students think concerning the matter.

WE desire to call the special attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Munro Exhibitions and Bursaries which appears in this issue. These scholarships are offered for the years 1884-5, 1885-6, 1886-7, and amount in the whole to fifteen thousand dollars. We hope that all who are in any way concerned have a due appreciation of Mr. Munro's liberality.

MR. MACGREGOR'S letter in another column explains itself. Doubtless "Student" will have something to say for himself in our next issue. The question is not to be disposed of by saying that students should send in their orders on the 15th September. This, as all know, is impossible in most cases. Our columns are open to any who wish to express their views on the communication referred to.

"STUDENT" in another column calls attention to a subject, the importance of which none will deny. So far as we can learn, wines were never on the table, on the occasions referred to, officially. Our correspondent, however, does not ask too much of his fellow students when he requests them to forego this at best but a doubtful pleasure. The GAZETTE is heartily with the temperance people in this respect. We trust that enough has been said on this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOOTBALL.

To the Editors Dalhousie Gazette:

My interest in football will be sufficient excuse for this letter. Primarily we indulge in the game for the sake of the exercise it gives us, but match-playing is the great stimulus to work. All will agree that unless new methods are adopted we might as well abandon the sport altogether. In a College where there are over 150 students there should be no difficulty in selecting three or four fifteens. As it is we can with difficulty put in the field one. Now why is this? In the first place the game is practically unknown in many of our country towns; the season for playing at College is not more than four weeks long; it is hardly to be expected therefore that a new hand with one season's practice should show any great proficiency. But this is not all; if students made good use of the season, short as it is, matters would be vastly improved; this, however, they do not, and while it is so the game will languish. There should be a representative fifteen from each year, from the Law school, and from the Medical College; frequent class matches should be played, and then

there would be abundant material from which to select a strong University team. Team practice should be more indulged in. It was remarked by an unprejudiced observer that in the match, Wanderers *versus* Dalhousie, the College boys should have won. And why didn't they? Simply because there was no concerted play on the part of the Collegians; every man played as if in some way or another it was by his efforts the game was to be won. Our opponents, on the other hand played as one man, and any trifling advantage they may have gained is wholly due to this fact. The club suffers in not having a proper ground, we see no remedy for this, but with our large number of students, many of them splendid specimens of manhood, we fail to see why more success should not attend the football club. It is not creditable that it does not. I venture to hope that next season we shall have a different tale to tell.

UNUS.

BOOKS AND BOOKSELLERS.

Halifax, December 10th, 1883.

Editors Dalhousie College Gazette:

SIRS.—In reply to a communication referring to students being unable to procure their text books in Halifax, allow me to explain as follows:—

We have been endeavoring to serve the College as a Book-Mailing Agency. This enabled students to have their books ordered at a special rate, provided they order ahead by using a post-card to advise us of the books they wanted. The changeable nature of the books wanted, besides the varying attendance of students, often prevents a bookseller from keeping the stock on hand. The idea of a recognized bookseller for the College would remedy this in part, but the matter is really in the hands of the students themselves. A post-card sent 15th September for the books wanted early in the session by a student will ensure his getting them at opening of the College. Books wanted from England immediately after Christmas can be spoken for on the 1st December. American books can always be procured within 10 days, English books within 40 days.

The most practical plan is the one suggested above that each student order from his bookseller in good time, the books he wants, and thus students get the advantage of the special rate.

Your correspondent must remember that even *live* enterprising booksellers have to avoid *dead* stock, especially in College Text Books, and we think the Book-Mailing Agency, therefore, which we recommend as the solution of the difficulty, should have a fuller trial. Accidents will often happen in the transmission of books from the publisher to the bookseller, causing delay. Frequently, also, standards books are out of print for a time. But we claim two advantages in our proposal. 1st, A special rate is given to students taking advantage of it. 2nd, Books thus ordered ahead will be here in time for students who are thoughtful enough to anticipate their wants.

Yours etc.,

D. MACGREGOR,
(of MacGregor & Knight.)

WINE AT STUDENT DINNERS.

To the Editors of the Dalhousie Gazette:

SIRS,—It is evident to the mind of every candid reader that you take a deep interest in every question which concerns the welfare of the students of our University. It is also evident that the students themselves, while not always unanimous with regard to the methods which are most advisable for advancing their common interests, are ever ready to treat those opinions which may differ from their own with due kindness and consideration.

Encouraged, therefore, by the belief that the suggestion which I am about to make will be criticized in that candid and independent spirit, with which discussions in the GAZETTE are usually characterized, I seek a short space in your columns. After the vacation is over, we shall eagerly await the approach of the *twenty-fifth*, on which day—"the day we celebrate" in honor of our patron and benefactor, Mr. Munro—we are accustomed to lay aside the pressing work of the session and "while dull care away" in feasting and joviality.

Now, as we all wish to render the occasion enjoyable to all who participate in its pleasures,

and as it is desirable to remove everything which would prevent any one of our fellow-students from participating therein, would it not be expedient for us to forego any additional gratification or eclat, which the presence of *wines* would add to the occasion? Would we not by this means afford the greatest pleasure to the greatest number of our fellow-students? Would we not thereby remove the occasion of certain sinister sneers, which are wont to be heard from some who look with an evil eye on the success of our College?

Altho' I am not at all in sympathy with a deal of the extravagant statements which seem to form the stock-in-trade of many ranting Temperance Reformers, yet I do believe,—and I feel assured that, after a judicious investigation, the majority of my fellow-students will sustain my position,—that it is expedient for us to abstain from a personal gratification on this occasion, so that all may feel at liberty to join in the festivities of the day, that Dame Gossip may be silenced, and that the good name of our Alma Mater may be preserved unsullied.

Trusting, Mr. Editors, that this suggestion may receive your careful consideration,

I remain, truly yours, STUDENT.

SODALES.

To the Editors of the Gazette:

I have been a constant reader of your paper for a number of years and I am beginning to be somewhat weary of your oft repeated articles on "Sodales." Excellent and well-meaning as that ancient institution is it can be serviceable to but a few. There is no life in the Society, it is cold and formal and much belies its name. Were the debates preceded by readings either of original essays or selections, or were there musical selections given at each of the meetings the proceedings would be invested with some degree of interest. As it is the organization is somewhat loose, and where students are so easily admitted no bond of attachment can possibly arise. I think that if Sodales were re-organized and various literary clubs formed as off-shoots from it the intention of the founders would more effectively be secured. What says the GAZETTE?

SODALIS.

SIR WALTER SCOTT THE POET.

Poetry is thought in blossom, the flower of a gigantic intellect breathing the fragrance of a lofty spirit. To the unrefined poetry is the bubble of literature, airy and worthless suited only to please the minikin minds of the childish populace; but to the refined it is the Eden of literature, the conservatory of beauty.

The great object of poetry is to please, to awaken within its peruser those finer feelings which slumber in his being; and to carry his thoughts up to that imaginary realm where beauty dwells robed in all her splendor before the throne of virtue.

The popularity of a poet therefore depends upon his success in awakening those feelings. Of all the poets we may safely say that not one of his time has so signally succeeded as the subject of our essay. His poetry has charmed the high and the low and has aroused the admiration of the most prosily inclined. It is true that he does not rise to the majesty of Milton or the gigantic nobleness of Byron but he descends to common topics, and images, and expressions around which he throws the mantle of a glowing diction and a brilliant imagery.

In his longer poems he generally goes back to the misty past from which he gathers his subjects. He then begins a romance; and in relating it we frequently find him digressing from the narrative. He mentions many incidents and brings before us many characters which are of no service in the development of the story; but hang like sparkling ornaments from the threads of the fable. In his metre also we find many defects which might with a little reflection have been avoided. But throughout the whole of his compositions there is the fire and the animation of a true poet.

His characters are chosen from almost every occupation and every profession; kings, knights, outlaws, nuns, minstrels, lovers, all play a part in his poetic dramas. "He has exhibited human life" says a writer, "in a greater variety of forms and lights, all definite and distinct, than any other man." But he does not confine his decriptive powers to the delineation of customs and manners

for we repeatedly find in his poems descriptions of nature with the outlines of the scene so accurately drawn and with the colors so delicately and harmoniously blended that the figures stand out with a boldness and a beauty which charm the peruser and transport the refined.

We might repeat many fine passages from his poems which display his powers of description and gift of expression but such passages are well known to all of his readers. It is sufficient for us to say that although in this age of literary progress and refinement, when floods of poetry overwhelm our attention, the poetry of this Scottish bard may be little read or little admired, yet we are forced to esteem and praise the man whose genius was so great that he could infuse life into dead subjects, cast a halo of beauty around the gloomist scenes, and more still could turn from the poetic arena and make grander displays and gain more splendid victories on the field of romance. L.

BREAKING UP.

FOR weeks the student mind was agitated with preparations for the annual Entertainment. The fiddlers twanged the strings and a "Glee Club" was organized; nothing was heard in all the land but men practising their "speeches," etc., etc. On Thursday evening, Dec. 20th, the great event took place. The spacious Library room was well filled with students from the various schools; Mr. Gammell occupied the chair, and announced the events from the following

PROGRAMME.

Delectatio Excellentissima!

1. Cantus nervorum a quattuor fidicinibus.
2. Recitatio a F. Sandapila.
3. Cantus a R. Despumato.
4. Lectio ab A. E. Anetha.
5. Cantus Vocum a Choro.
6. Dissertatio a V. Sandapila.
7. Oratio a D. A. Fusco.
8. Recitatio a J. F. Fabro.
9. Cantus a R. Despumato.
10. Oratio a C. H. Potest.
11. Saltus Locorum Montanorum a D. H. Macensio.
12. Cantus nervorum a J. J. Molitore.
13. Oratio ab A. Nickelfilio.
14. Cantus nervorum a H. S. Adamo.
15. Lectio ab A. W. MacJubare.
16. Cantus Vocum a Choro.

It is hardly necessary for us to particularize when all did so well, but we venture to say that No. 11 was *the* event of the evening. The programme was varied somewhat by volunteers, and Mr. Sedgewick sang the "Laird O'Cockpen" in his usual fine style. At intermission time the Janitor was sent for, and silence being had, the Chairman called on Mr. Cahan to come forward and perform a little task entrusted to him; whereupon Mr. Cahan read an address to the Janitor, the prayer of which was that he accept the accompanying Christmas present, some \$20. Mr. Dunlop replied suitably. But the students were now getting impatient. The "pompa magna" was yet to come, and hardly had the concert closed when all formed into a grand

PROCESSION.

The route this year was up Argyle to Jacob and thence to Brunswick, where, at their residences, rousing cheers were given for Prof. Forrest and Prof. Somers. The noise about this time was something simply frightful, and attracted crowds of that species known as the "down-town tough." Up Gerrish the way was held to Gottingen Street; here an opportunity was given to cheer Prof. MacGregor and Dr. Campbell. In revenge for the treatment of one of their number by a policeman, the students now kept on till the palatial City building was reached. Here three rousing cheers were given for the police force; it is significant that not a "peeler" was seen. The Dean of the Medical Faculty, Dr. Black, now received the parting cheer and shortly after the crowd broke up.

If we might make a suggestion we would say that a cornet is wanted to lead the singing. In a line three hundred feet long it is impossible for the crowd to follow any one voice. We hope also next year to see "marshals" who shall keep the crowd together. The display would have been more effective had these little points been attended to.

"NON paratus," dixit Freshie
Cum a sad, a doleful look;
"Omne rectum," prof. respondit,
Et "nihil" scripsit in his book.

LAW SCHOOL NOTES.

THROUGH inadvertence our usual column of notes was omitted last issue.

MESSRS. S. L. SHANNON and J. Y. PAYZANT have contributed each \$100 to the Library funds.

THE Barristers' Society have granted all the privileges of their Library to Law School students. The favor is appreciated.

THE class on Contracts will have their lectures between 8 and 9 p. m. on Tuesday and Friday evenings. After vacation the lectures on Torts will be delivered on Monday evenings between the same hours.

THE Law Faculty has had a conference with the Governors of the University with reference to the Law Library. A committee composed of W. J. Stairs and John Doull, Esquires, Prof. Forrest and three of the Faculty will shortly issue an appeal to the public for money. The profession has done much for the Library both in the way of money and books; it is now hoped to raise \$2500 at once from the general public. There seems to be every prospect of success.

IN the article on the Law Library in our second number we credited Mr. George Ritchie with 143 vols. It should have been T. E. Kenny, 140 vols; Geo. Ritchie, 3 vols. In addition we have to acknowledge from Sheriff Archibald, 80 vols; C. S. Harrington, 1 vol; P. C. Hill, Jr., 14 vols; S. L. Shannon, 21 vols. (Moak's Notes,) L. W. Desbarres, 8 vols.; M. B. Daly, 123 vols. (complete set of English Common Law Reports); John Menger, 24 vols.; D. B. Stewart, 4 vols.

A MOOT COURT has been organized among the students of the first year. On Nov. 27th, the question for discussion was:—

The librarian of the law school by letter posted 13th November, offered to purchase for the law school from the sheriff of Cape Breton, resident at Sydney, his complete set of the journals of the house from 1867, for the sum of thirty-dollars, to be delivered and paid for one month after date of the letter. The letter was received in due course on the 15th Nov., and on the same day the sheriff replied accepting the offer unconditionally. The envelope bore the post mark indicating that it had been posted on the 15th, but it was dated by mistake November 17th. On the 17th the sheriff having received a better offer for the books wrote a letter declining the librarian's offer. There are two mail routes between Sydney and Halifax—one partially by rail and the other wholly by steamer. The first letter was sent by steamer and delayed on the way so that the second letter was delivered in Halifax at the same time as the first, and was actually opened

and read by the librarian before the other. At the expiration of the month the librarian tendered the \$30 and demanded the books, which the sheriff refused to part with and an action was brought for breach of alleged contract. The judge on the authority of Mr. Langdell, ruled that as the parties contemplated a bilateral contract, the letter of acceptance amounted to nothing until received, and further on the authority of Dunmore vs. Alexander (Langdell's cases) he held that as the letter declining the offer had been received at the same time as the letter of acceptance and read before it, it neutralised the acceptance, and he therefore non-suited the plaintiff. A rule was taken to set aside the non-suit as against law.

Gregory and Troop in support of rule; Hensley and Crowe contra. B. Russell, Esq., presided, and judgment was that the rule be made absolute.

THE following question was argued before the Moot Court on Thursday evening, Dec. 6th:—

"A places on his premises a steam boiler. Through no negligence on the part of A, or his servants, the boiler explodes and damages the adjoining property of B. Is A liable for the damage to property of B?"

Chipman and Wells for plaintiff; Macdonald and Jennison for defendant. Mr. Bulmer, who presided, gave judgment for plaintiff.

THE following periodicals are regularly received in the Library: *Canada Law Journal*, *Lower Canada Jurist*, *Canada Law Times*, *Revue Légale*, *American Law Register*, *Albany Law Journal*, *Insurance Law Journal*, *American Law Review*, *Criminal Law Magazine*, *Pacific Coast Law Journal*, and some others.

COLLEGE NEWS.

WHAT think you of the letter on Sodales?

THERE are 186 students taking classes in the different departments of this University.

THE petition to the Faculty for extension of the vacation was extensively signed.

THE general opinion is that after the excellent singing at the "Entertainment" there should no longer be any difficulty in organizing a Glee Club.

ON Saturday, Dec. 15th, the Collegians were challenged to play a return match with the "Wanderers." But owing to the short notice the club could not be got together; a scratch-match was however played.

THE thanks of the students are due to Notman for the beautiful cards which he has presented them. Last year it will be remembered they contained an engraving of the

College. Now they have beautifully finished pictures of Professors Ross, Lyall, Macdonald, Johnson and Lawson.

INSTRUCTION in the gymnasium has been resumed under the old teachers. The students are divided into two classes, the one composed of seniors and juniors, the other of 1st and 2nd year men. The former class have Sergeant-Major Bailey in fencing and boxing from 3 to 4 P. M. on Tuesdays, and Sergeant Smith in gymnastics during the same hour on Thursdays. The latter class have instruction in gymnastics and fencing on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively.

THE statement in our last issue to the effect that Prof Peabody had not succeeded in organizing a class in Elocution, is incorrect, as the Prof. has been lecturing in the Library during the last fortnight to about a dozen students. That more have not availed themselves of the opportunity is a matter of regret, as those who have speak in high terms of the Prof. He has also taken in hand some of the city preachers, that are, and has two classes at Pine Hill of those that are to be.

SODALES.—Friday evening, Nov. 30th, brought round the weekly meeting of Sodales. As usual the attendance was small. Mr. Jones, in the absence of both President and Vice-President, occupied the chair. The Secretary read the Constitution which had been drawn up by the committee appointed for that purpose. After a little discussion it was adopted *in toto*. The subject of discussion was the much vexed question of "Woman Suffrage"—a question so interesting to our lady undergraduates that, for the first time in the annals of the Society, the debate was graced by the presence of ladies. Mr. Cahan opened the question by reading extracts from newspaper articles on both sides of the question, finally giving his opinion against Woman Suffrage. Langille answered him in a well considered speech. Larkin arose to support Cahan but "the surroundings overcame him" and he subsided for the time being; though later in the evening he spoke with his usual ability. Gammell and Macrae followed on the opposite side—the latter making the most eloquent speech of the evening. Their native gallantry prevented many of the students expressing their views aloud; for while a great majority of the speakers argued in favour of Woman suffrage, the vote showed the meeting to be strongly against it.

THE meeting on the following Friday was much livelier and better attended. Mr. Martin filled the duties of chairman in a most efficient manner. The question for the evening—"Do

the benefits of novel reading counterbalance its ends?"—was opened in the negative by Mr. A. Mackenzie, who showed clearly the pernicious effects of novel reading,—the memory was weakened, time lost, and a taste for less exciting but more instructive literature destroyed. Gammell, the respondent, and his supporters claimed that novels afforded innocent amusement, presented much useful knowledge in a way easily remembered and were one of the great popular educators of the nineteenth century. Many good speeches were made, among which may be mentioned those of Coffin and McLeod against novels, and of McLennan, Young, Crowe and Cahan in favour of them. The question was settled in the affirmative by a vote of 14 to 4.

SATURDAY NIGHT MEETING.—The discussion of the succeeding Sunday's lesson has certainly had the effect of giving to this meeting a new interest. The analysis of the character and actions of men held up for our example has evidently been to all a pleasant and profitable study. While this is a matter of congratulation, and while we are glad to see this meeting loyally supported by a number, we are sorry on the other hand to find that its supporters form so small a proportion of our students. That the most of our foremost students have never once been seen in this class is surely a matter of regret, and not less so the surprising truth that of over one hundred students a dozen is the average attendance. We are sorry to find an inclination to overlook almost with contempt the College Bible-class, a class which if rightly considered must be judged the most important one we have. An idea prevails that it exists for and is supported by those only who have the study of theology in view, to the exclusion almost of all others; and we have heard attendances of the debating club urged with the reason that it is the only society in our midst. In opposition to such views—to claim for it a place beside, if not superior to, other literary meetings; to earnestly present its demands for the support of the majority at least of our students; and finally to gain for it the recognition of our Senate itself shall be our continued aim.

Owing to absence of students no meeting will be held during vacation.—COM.

It is said that a boy came home from school very much excited and told his father that he believed all human beings were descended from apes, which made the old man so mad that he replied angrily:—"That may be the case with you, but it ain't with me; I can tell you that now."

DALLUSIENSIA.

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

"DUDISM in blossom," remarks the young lady passing the crimsonated student.

SOPH who has taken first rank in English, "I hope I won't git froze."

PICTOU fellows are laying in a supply of "Mountain dew" for holidays. Got the Scott Act up there.

WHAT was that soft, fine brown tendril-like article that hung down from that sophis shoulder the other morning? Was it a thread? A clothes-line? Oh, no. *Can* such things be.

Student translating Horace:—"And I will love my sweetly smiling, my sweetly speaking Salage.

Prof. "Very good, sir."

HAVE you been in the GAZETTE yet? No replied the big Freshie who is some relation to the late Governor-General, though several students *passed us* that evening.

HE stood by the door until the sexton came out, and then wailed "She is not where the *poplars* rustle." It was so sad that a kind-hearted miss says she had half a mind to take *fits* herself.

Two freshies who did not *leck* their *bukes* when to visit a fair class-mate the other evening. On arrival they began to play puss in the corner, which exciting game they kept up for three hours, at last when the fire went out they did the same.

Two students so green,
They were Freshies I ween,
Through the city did march up and down,
And with mouths open wide
They peered and they pried,
Through every window in town.

At length they did stand,
Right before a grand
Undertaking establishment,
A shirt bosom they see,
On a corpse it should be,
But our Freshies knew not what it meant,

Said one to the other,
(He looked like his brother)
Look here ain't that the clear dirt,
These beautiful frills,
My heart so fills,
I'm plagued if I don't buy that shirt.

I too said his mate,
Think it first rate,
And am sure that it would become you,
But don't you think John
T'would be hard to get on,
With your mammy away—away from you.

"I WISH I were a geese over there," said the soph. "You are one here and that will do," is warbled in reply.

A JUNIOR who had day after day observed the mump-swelled face of a fellow boarder, tells a chum with sober earnestness that such a fat mortal must be the laziest creature in existence. He may calculate on a similiar fit of laziness—"If you do that again I'll strike out."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Geo. Munro, Esq., \$5; A. Whitman, B.A., Esq., Rev. G. M. Grant, D. D., \$3 each; A. P. Douglass, Esq., Judge James, Dr. Avery, F. B. Chamber, B.A., Esq., \$2 each; W. G. Putnam, Thos. A. LePage, L. Mylius, Rev. F. W. Archibald, B.D., H. M. Smith, Mr. Lusby, Mr. Larkin, T. F. J. Murphy, G. Hamilton, J. G. Potter, H. G. Creelman, Miss Forbes, Hon. R. P. Grant, Miss McNeil, J. R. Coffin, J. Gammell, G. M. Campbell, J. McG. Stewart, H. V. Pearman, G. P. McLeod, McLeod Harvey, \$1 each.

WM. TAYLOR,
156 Granville Street, - - Halifax.

IMPORTER AND DEALER IN

Boots and Shoes,

SLIPPERS—Felt, Corded, Universal, &c.

OVERSHOES AND SNOW EXCLUDERS,

In all the latest varieties.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

NOTMAN

Has issued tickets to Students which entitle them to be Photographed at his Studio,

39 GEORGE STREET,

At the following rates:—

Cabinet—Best Finish, - \$5.00 per doz.
Card-Cameo " - 3.00 "

SATISFACTON GUARANTEED.

Students who have not received tickets can obtain them on application at Studio.

TWELVE numbers of the GAZETTE are issued every Winter Session by the STUDENTS of Dalhousie College and University.

TERMS:

One collegiate year (*in advance*).....\$1 00
Single copies..... 0 10

Payments to be made to W. B. Taylor, Financial Secretary, 33 Kempt Road, Halifax, N. S., and all communications to be addressed to *Editors "Dalhousie Gazette" Halifax, N. S.* Anonymous communications can receive no attention.

Printed by the NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY, Corner of Sackville and Granville Sts., Halifax, N. S.