

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

ORA ET LABORA.

VOL. XVI.

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 21, 1884.

No. 10.

## "THE SONG OF THE WEED," AFTER "HOOD."

With fingers idle and still,  
With eyes a trifle too red,  
A young man sat in unmannerly style,  
Puffing a T. D. in bed,  
Smoke, smoke, smoke!  
In a wearisome mood indeed,  
And still with a voice of dolorous croak,  
He sang "The song of the Weed."

Puff, puff, puff!  
Ere the cock is crowing aloof!  
Puff, puff, puff!  
Till the moon shines on the roof!  
And, oh, if I but might  
Along with the barbarous (?) Turk  
Indulge in a pipe from morning till night  
It would be glorious work!

Puff, puff, puff!  
Till the room begin to fill,  
Puff, puff, puff!  
To smoke never makes *me* ill,  
Pipe, cigar, cigarette,  
Cigarette, cigar, pipe,  
Till over the ashes I fall asleep  
And wake, them only to wipe.

O men with sweethearts *dear*,  
O men who have married wives,  
You never draw an "innocent cloud,"  
How do you spend your lives?  
Smoke, smoke, smoke,  
Would be desolate work indeed  
Indulged in presence of ladies fair,  
They always hate the weed.

But why do I waste my breath?  
I'll try a friend's kind loan,  
I seldom use a different brand  
That seems unlike my own,  
It seems unlike my own,  
(And various kinds I keep,)  
O why is tobacco very dear  
And other things so cheap!

Puff, puff, puff!  
This pleasure never palls,  
And what are its wages! An appetite  
(Is one) in your dining-halls,  
A good digestion gives  
You doubt? But try it and see?  
And that man of rank, Sir Raleigh, you'll thank,  
The smoker's patron he!

Puff, puff, puff!  
In the evening after toil,  
Puff, puff, puff!  
As I burn the midnight oil,  
Cigarette, cigar, pipe,  
Pipe, cigar, cigarette,  
Till the head is light and the brain gets soothed,  
And still I'm smoking yet!

Puff, puff, puff!  
In the dull December light,  
And puff, puff, puff!  
When the weather is warm and bright,  
Tho' underneath the room  
The inmates cough aloud,  
As if to shew me it's time to stop—  
I'll blow another cloud.

O, but to taste this brand  
(Peculiarly good and sweet,)  
With your hands above your head  
And the bolster 'neath your feet!  
For only *one* short hour  
Could *thus* ye abstainers feel  
You'd always use "the filthy weed,"  
At least to digest a meal.

You'd have one jolly hour,  
A respite, though rather brief,  
A blessed leisure from vexing thoughts  
(Tobacco assuages grief.)  
A little smoking removes our cares,  
We each have these, you know,  
Our sorrows cease, we are at peace  
With all, when we take a *blow*!

With fingers finally still,  
With eyes decidedly red,  
This young man dozed most unmannerly now—  
Pipes all around him in bed.

Smoke, smoke, smoke!  
Of the hour having not the least heed.  
And still, in a voice of nicotined croak,  
As the landlady called and the dinner bell broke,  
He sang—This "Song of the Weed"!

—  
"THE PLUG."  
—

THE subject of this paper is one with which every Dalhousie Student is, alas! too well acquainted. Still, I think, a short introduction will not be out of place.

For the benefit of non-collegians, I may state that by "plugs" we do not mean those skilled supporters of the noble art of self-defence, whom, in the persons of "Tug" Wilson, the Maori and others, the nations delight to honor. Oh no! the college plug knows nought of Sullivan's victories. In fact I am in doubt if he knows what "the gloves" are. But I am not going to define him. He is an "indefinite quantity." Ordinary phraseology fails to reach him. Indeed I do not think the originators of our language ever saw a plug. Webster's Unabridged does not contain him. It required the genius of college slang to invent a name for such a character.

When a stranger asks us who he is, though on other topics our eloquence, like that of Homer's hero, resembles the falling snow, on this the most verbose declaimer yields to stress of circumstances and, stooping to common parlance, says "Oh! that fellow's a plug."

I have determined not to write a dissertation on the theme, "are Plugs human?" No! after deep meditation and careful, impartial, and anxious deliberation, I have come to the conclusion that Plugs are human. When the juries disagreed in the lower courts, upon the case being carried to the Supreme Court of the Higher Reason, the final decision was reached that, "if we included under the genus, Human Being, that noble specimen of animal life whose lengthy auricular appendages graced the classic cranium of Midas, then the "Plug is human."

Lo he comes! in the volume of the Chronicles of the University it is written of him that he was "First Class" all through his course; in the battle of life, failing to come up to the mark,

he has been plucked—and why? Because physical, social, spiritual and true intellectual training has been sacrificed to obtain a few marks.

"Yes," the world says, "it is very strange about Mr. A. He was very clever. I remember he and Judge B. were at College together. A. graduated at the head of his class. The Judge made very fair marks, nothing extra; but they say he was an enthusiast at College Sports, a leader in Debating Clubs and College Societies generally. It is wonderful how poor A. went down. He was very smart; they say he used to write, speak and, some say, think in Latin. But you know there was always something stiff about him; he seemed to be away above us ordinary mortals. And yet he was very innocent-minded, he knew nothing about the world and was taken in right and left by all sorts of sharpers. Ah well! let the dead rest. Now there's Judge B., he came here, settled down, joined the social clubs, was a very fair speaker and, what is much more, a pleasant fellow, who could always talk to a man as though he were a man. And look at him now, he's on the top rung of the ladder, and he says he owes it all to his 'Alma Mater.'"

That is the way the world looks at it. But, my reader, I will tell you a secret—I will whisper it, and do you just keep it quiet for the sake of the feelings of his family—A. was a Plug. The puzzled look passes from your face, pity gives way to a hard, contemptuous smile, for now you fully understand A.'s break-down.

Yes, A. was a desperate Plug. The desperate Plug—we know him well. Look at him crossing the parade; see how he splashes through the slush, his only thought being of some abstruse formula or classic root. Indifferent he to the snow or mud; with his eyes fixed on the earth lest perchance the recognition of a fellow-student should interrupt his line of thought, with shoulders stooped he plods on. For him the beauties of English Literature have no charms. His clothes flap round his attenuated limbs, his hair is becoming grizzled, his face meagre, as though the fell destroyer had marked him for his victim. The lack of spring in his walk too plainly indicates that the Gymnasium, as a resort, is unknown

to his flabby muscles. Note the lustreless glance of his weary eye. If by some accident he happens to be at a social gathering, he is silent, for, having neglected the Science of Sociology, he naturally has nothing to say. Outsiders on the converse of the principle that "the empty cart makes the most noise," credit his silence to his remarkable ability. But they forget that it is the cart clogged with mire which, being immovable, makes no noise whatever.

This is the Plug. We all know him so well that, were we to meet him on the plains of Timbuctoo, we would instantly, on catching sight of him, recognize him afar off. But we would not run and fall upon his neck and kiss him. Oh no! if previously we had been thinking of the privations to which we were exposed on account of our banishment from civilization, we would instantly, on beholding him, fly to the kraal of the savage Bushman, preferring barbarism, with all its defects, to civilization in company with a Plug.

I think that, were the Plug to press his company upon me, I would be tempted, throwing away my clothing, the last relic of civilization, to become a regular John Dunn and, having taken unto me several wives, would not I, as a civilized Zulu, thirst for the blood of that Plug? And I am afraid that, as I feasted on him with cannibalistic delight, language would fail to express my disgust when I discovered that too much study had proven a weariness of the flesh, in so much as his knowledge, boiling over from the brain, had so impregnated the flesh as to render it too dry and musty for human food.

PRIMUS.

—  
ON EFFETE METHODS OF CULTURE.  
—

MUCH general attention has been directed to the controversy raised by Charles Francis Adams in the United States on the subject of the enforced learning of Greek in colleges. It is to be hoped that this movement will attain to success, and that it may be followed by a general purgation of the evils of college education. That those evils are great and manifold I think is a proposition which should look plausible to all minds. That they have been unquestioned hitherto is no bar to this. The lawfulness of

slavery was unquestioned in America till later than 1830.

Linguistic culture is undoubtedly a most difficult and time-absorbing species of mental research; and the tired student almost wishes that the imperial glories of Rome had either been founded upon a Greek basis or had been non-existent. As for a man needing to know another language than his own—that is not very clear to me. Only one language can be one's own.

That we must know Latin to know English is a doctrine which I wish some one would explain to me. It is equivalent to saying that the English is not a proper language—is no language. Do not English words convey perfectly accurate ideas? Are not English words sufficient for all thoughts? Does not the usage of English writers afford a means of perfect education in the use of English words? If we wish to know the derivation of a word can we not find it in a dictionary? and if we know the full force of a word already (from usage) is it at all necessary that we should know its derivation? If there is any beauty in the classical diction of Milton, is not that beauty as well seen by those who do not know that it is imitative as by those who do? And when allusions to classical fable are met with in our poets are not those allusions self-explanatory? Or if the reader has not met with them before can we not easily find their explanation by inquiry?

Then we have the doctrine of the untranslatable. We are told that only the illiterate will for one moment accept a translation as an approximate equivalent for the original. Those who know anything of Greek, we are told, know that Greek cannot be translated. Now as to the mere melody of Greek words and word-combinations (which may surpass that of English words, etc.), the parrot can learn it: but as to their meanings it is certain that every word in every language has a precise, accurate meaning, and that when that meaning is conveyed to the mind the object of reading is gained. It is of course perfectly true and clear that good Greek is bad English—that there are two ways of conveying the ideas in translation—the one giving the exact meaning in crude English, the other giving an approximate meaning in elegant English. But translations of both kinds are accessible to every reader. And in the first kind, the crude but faithful translation, what drawback is there which should frighten the student from it. Its only weakness is that its English is unidiomatic. Its English is not more

unidiomatic than that of Carlyle, or than that of many of our poets must necessarily be. I presume that the Greek poets required some tension of mind even from Greeks. Walt Whitman requires some tension of mind from Anglo-Saxons. That tension of mind is required to follow a writer is no objection to studying him. Are not the very very wise forever harping on the need of mental tension and concentration as a discipline? But we are told that Greek images and Greek conceptions of nature may drift past our dull ears, and, that we may lose some delicate modification, some gem, some fine enhancement of beauty. Perhaps so. We only wish that our orthodox friends thought more of nature and less of syntax. But syntax we are told is part of thought. Perhaps so.

Then there is some mysterious sense in which something classical (whether classical thoughts or not I know not) is filtered through all our body of English literature, the 'illiterate' Shakespeare I suppose included. So that when we point to English literature as a resource we are told in fact something which, as far as I can make it out, means that there is no such thing as English literature. Perhaps not. But I do think that that ghost which we call English literature is a very large mass of mental product and is in part exceedingly high in its quality. To me it seems that it affords range for mental occupation for a life-time. I think those who know and appreciate even its main walks and avenues cannot be called dullards. But perhaps eighteen months in a Latin Delectus would add something.

Then above all is the danger of young boys striking out about utility and that sort of thing and not waiting for years that bring the philosophic mind. But enough for the present.

S. J. MACKNIGHT.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Dalhousie Gazette:

SIRS,—Received your latest issue and therein note Sigma's reply to my communication on "Athletics." Am pleased to note also that he admits that "six Sessions back" there was a Foot-ball Club in existence, that had a substantial reputation. By silence he moreover admits the truth of my statement, that more decisive victories over worthy opponents were then achieved than at any session since that date, not omitting the college year of 1883-4. Having brought out such an admission, the writer might well refrain from further comments, since what

he started out to impress on, and correct in the minds of your readers has already been corroborated by even inimical Sigma.

But my opponent submits with no good grace, as will be shown by what follows. Hence it is our duty to *wax* Sigma on digressions. In the second part of his letter he grows ironical, and finally he—

"man, proud man,  
Dressed in a little brief authority,  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven,  
As make the angels weep."

I quote "It was not my intention to compare the mighty heroes of 'those days' with the *boys* of our own time, nor the *brutal contests* which *then* took place when the *shin-barking association rules* were in vogue with the *more systematic play of the present day.*" The italics are my own. It is almost a wonder that Sigma did not go a little further and liken the Undergraduates of "six Sessions back" to *cave-dwellers at once.*" When exaggeration holds such "high carnival" as is here displayed, a few ages of civilization would not count, and still greater emphasis would thus be secured; but we must take up the italicized expressions in detail. First, I notice he styles the students at present attending Dalhousie, as boys, and remember that it is only he that does so. Peruse my letter and you will not find such a word therein. I had only reference, in my comparison of the ages of students then and now, to the period of the "budding whisker mild" for the latter as contrasted with the free growth then. Hence, it must follow that the idea of the present college man, being a boy, exists only within the cranium of Sigma, and must result from the "order of conviction." Far be it from my intention, to use such epithets, but oh Sigma, you are so cruel! Your comrades may well cry, "save me from my friends."

The next point to be noticed is concerning the "brutal contests which then took place," what perfect savages we must have been "in those days"! Thirsting for the blood of our opponents, "under the shin-barking association rules"! Sir, I deny the charge, and that most emphatically. Does Sigma remember how many men were disabled at Wolfville under the

"auspices" of the delightful and tender Rugby Union rules. Can he ascertain by reference to the back numbers of the GAZETTE, how many victims there were to those terrible association rules, in the contests with the city? Subtract the latter from the former and you will have a remainder. This does not argue well for those tender rules, unless we explain the fact by taking into account the different calibre of the selected teams, which we leave Sigma to do in his next, and to tell us "some more" about the lovely and beautiful, "more systematic play of the present day."

Another paragraph in his letter reads, "but were I so minded," &c., he could tell us many things. Gods, how he smiles! Oh, thou great and adorable, high and exalted Sigma, that thou would'st vouchsafe to us poor worms of the dust, some of thy great knowledge. But why supplicate! If Sigma has attained to such proud eminence, he may not condescend to notice any or sundry newspaper petitions, and we refrain.

The same letter tells us that Dalhousie Students now enjoy anything but first class privileges. In the first place, they do not meet until November, and the season has then gone by. This is like telling a man that he enjoys first class religious privileges, and he answers, yes, but Sunday does not come until after a long week of days. In verity, I do not see how this point is to be remedied, unless we go to Halifax and try to persuade the powers that be to open college a month earlier, and have the exercises to consist solely of foot-ball until the regular time for opening. How would this do, Sigma? We are always willing to do what we can to please and have peace.

In the next place he says, when we do come back in the autumn to college, we are worn out by a hard summer's study and have a five months exam. staring us in the face. What veritable Jolis! but rather and more truthfully would we exclaim, what veritable book-worms! There were always such characters whose

"Native hue of resolution  
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,  
And enterprises of great pith and moment, (such as  
Foot-ball,)  
With this regard their currents turn awry,  
And lose the name of action."

Six years ago we used to hear such sentiments as Sigma gives vent to, expressed by a few. I fear their number has grown greater. You are getting too much into the style of Hamlet, and we in our prophetic soul, can say, the more you give way to such whimperings and whinings, as we are accustomed to read in the GAZETTE, the harder is it to be resolved on any course of action. "Be a man or a mouse." If your studies are too voluminous, remodel Spartacus to suit the occasion. The only conclusion your readers can come to, from Sigma's words, is that small minds are abjectly squeaking under whatever load their masters please to burden them with. Such things were in the past and were remedied. But to give this reason, of too much work, as an argument against enjoying first class foot-ball privileges, is foolishness. The very open-air exercise is so refreshing and recruiting as to stimulate and invigorate the mind that it shall be able to work much more efficiently. Time spent in such exercise is not lost. It is well known that with no out-door exercise at all, the mind will soon cease to work. Hence this argument of "no time" is a *reductio ad absurdum.*

Sigma's last point is, that he does not feel at home on the North Common, because of a "little molestation." What this small annoyance is he does not vouchsafe to tell us. Thus we can only presume, judging from the past, that "some more boys" trouble them. The best remedy suggestible in this case is for Sigma's students to grow large enough to scare the small boys away, otherwise, I suppose, that the College will have to provide "good sporting grounds" where there are no small boys.

But I have already trespassed on your space too much, and shall be compelled to leave Sigma to unravel the tangled skein of athletics, and to get up a thoroughly efficient foot-ball club; in which work he has the best wishes for success from

NIMROD.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE has a professor in Ethics, a professor in Logic and Psychology, a professor in History and Political Economy, and a professor (Schurman) in English Literature and Metaphysics, while our University has only one in Metaphysics, Ethics and Logic.—*Varsity.*

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., MARCH 21, 1884.

## 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.

Poetry—"The Song of the Weed," "After Hood" .....	117
"The Plug" .....	118
On Effete Methods of Culture. ....	119
Correspondence .....	120
Editorial .....	122, 123, 124
Chaucer's "Prologue" .....	125
College News .....	125
The Library .....	126
Reviews, Notices, &c. ....	126
Among the Colleges .....	127
Dallusians .....	127
Personals .....	128

IT might seem a question to some whether Dalhousie College is really in need of all the reforms referred to in the columns of the GAZETTE, and we fancy the casual reader has formed the opinion that this organ of the Students is rather given to fault-finding and grumbling. Matters which in a way lie in the hands of the Students such as the formation of literary societies, athletic sports, and glee clubs, we may be told should specially engross the attention of the student mind, and often the gentle hint is thrown out that subjects of such weighty importance as lengthened session and college curriculum should receive the consideration of those of wiser heads and larger experience. This may be true, and in passing we may say that it is the duty of the GAZETTE, and of every individual Student, to put forth ceaseless efforts to bring about the accomplishment of these ends, but we feel that these weightier matters also so vitally concern us, and are so peculiarly our interests that we even dare to dip into these. The question, however, which we would refer to has not we presume been under the consideration of the "powers that be" for any length of time. Prior to the establishment of the law faculty such a question as its more complete amalga-

tion with the Arts faculty could not arise. On the formation of this faculty we understood that it would be a part of this University, but as yet we can hardly say that we find it so. Classes meet in the different buildings and consequently the students see very little of each other. The law students, we venture to assert, know very little about, and have very little interest in what is termed Dalhousie College. It would here be irrelevant to attempt to show how much of the real training of a university is lost by the exclusion of the healthy current of thought which necessarily exists in such an institution. A new building capacious enough to accommodate both faculties would do much to break down the barrier of separation; but it is not this to which we intend to refer, but to the advisability of strengthening their connection and of affording a new inducement to students of the Maritime Provinces. Professional exemptions we think ought to be given to those of the Arts course in their third and fourth years, so as to enable them to take the first and second years of the law course at the same time as they take the last two of their Arts. It would be indeed a great saving of time and money if students could graduate in their professional course one year after completing their Arts studies. Students of ability at the present time enter upon honour courses and, after hard work both in summer and winter, succeed in taking their degrees with honours. Now we think that such students by working as faithfully summer as well as winter, and by taking advantage of exemptions of two or three subjects of their regular Art curriculum could pass creditably in both Law and Arts. The majority of us coming here at the age of about twenty or twenty-one, if fortunate enough to win a bursary, will probably get through at twenty-four or twenty-five, and then afterwards being compelled to teach two or three years in order to take three or four years at a profession, are considerably advanced in life before they are in a position to acquire anything more than the scant necessities of life. Now such an arrangement here suggested would shorten this double course by three or four years, inasmuch as the student would be saved the two years at college

and a year or two in preparing the necessary funds. But it may be said that such arrangements would involve a sacrifice of completeness and thoroughness. We admit a slight degree of truth in this but contend that the B.A. having omitted two subjects in his third and fourth years, and having put his extra time in the study of Jurisprudence is not so very far behind that honour man who has also omitted two subjects in each of these years and who has put his special attention on Mathematics, Classics or Mental Philosophy, and much less behind the ordinary B.A.

Nor, on the other hand, is the student who attends the law lectures and who puts as much time on these as the honour man does on his honour work (and that is more than half his whole time) and who supplements his class work by the greater part of the summer, nor is such a graduate we think very much behind the ordinary LL.B. The difference is only this, the honour student who takes both independent courses has an additional training in such subjects as Mathematics or Classics, which will be of very little use to him in the matter of earning a respectable living or of making himself a useful member of society, and which we should say any man would willingly forego for the sake of shortening his course by even a single year. Many students enter upon honour courses because they imagine they have some surplus ability to expend on a more extended course than the ordinary, and that they may have something definite and prescribed upon which they may direct their attention during the summer, and not because they want to study this or that branch because it is invested with special interest or because it will be subservient to some end which they may have in view. Dalhousie would not stand alone in such an arrangement. McGill College affords exemptions during the last two years of the Arts course for both law and medical students on their notifying the faculty, on the beginning of the session, of their intention of claiming exemptions, and in producing certificates at the end of the session certifying to their attendance on a full course of professional lectures. They are accordingly allowed to omit, in their third

year, two, and in their fourth, three of the regular subjects of the course. Is there any reason why we should not enjoy such privileges in Dalhousie, and that students of the Maritime Provinces should be deprived of them by an ultra-conservatism which is far too deeply, deeply rooted in the authorities of our College.

NEXT sessions bids to be a lively one, at least as far as College Societies are concerned. Students appear at last to be impressed with the fact that such neglect of student clubs and societies as has been heretofore the rule in Dalhousie, is a loss to themselves as well as a disgrace to the College. Two new clubs are proposed, a Literary, and Athletic, which active students are endeavouring to organize before the closing of the College. Of the latter we have already spoken. The former the GAZETTE has advocated as long as we can remember, and we do not just here intend to show the many benefits which would undoubtedly flow from it, but simply to warn its organizers against conducting it as Sodales has been conducted for the last few years. According to the present constitution, all Dalhousie Students are members of that club, no entrance fee or signing of rules being required. Any one can come and go when they like. It is at the same time everybody's and nobody's club, and no one seems to think that he has any personal responsibility in its success or failure. We wish to be distinctly understood. We are not writing against Sodales but against the present manner of conducting it. We would be very sorry indeed to see it dissolved. There should be room for both it and the Literary Club. If not, perhaps one could be made a branch of the other. But whether one or both be carried on next winter, radical changes should be made in the Constitution. The meetings, we think, should be secret, and membership depend on the approval of the club and the payment of a moderate entrance fee. We hope the Students will not let the matter drop, and that next session will see at least two or three student clubs in a flourishing condition.

IS Nova Scotia to have an Agricultural College? This is a question which must soon be answered. To whom can the Province look for its establishment? It is plain that the Legislature is not in a position to start such an institution, nor are the farmers, nor yet is any single college among the five we already have. It would seem then that by the union of the Provincial aid, which might reasonably be expected, with the efforts of the grangers, supplemented by the assistance of any one of the colleges, the Province might hope ultimately to have an Agricultural College. The King's College *Record* is disposed to regard Dalhousie as out of the question in this connection. Possibly, but this remains to be seen. In the meantime we cannot assent to the *Record's* proposal to include Mount Allison among the colleges which with Government assistance might start such a school. Surely if this Province has money to spend in this direction, it might find a Provincial college on which to spend it.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Our esteemed contemporary (GAZETTE) objects to the denominational colleges receiving Government support. As representing an institution that has always been a pampered pet of the Government this is refreshingly cool. But the *Dalhousie Gazette* must pardon us for differing from it.—*King's College Record*."

The above is an extract from an editorial in the *Record* on the question of Government aid to our Provincial Colleges. When it is remembered that this Province for many years donated to the aforesaid King's College sums amounting in the whole to not less than £25,000, during which time it was closed to all but Churchmen, and no place was found for Dissenters, we may well say that the *Record's* statement is "refreshingly cool."

A SUGGESTION has been made, and has been rather favorably received, to the effect that class organizations be introduced at Dalhousie. True the number of students in any one year is not very large. Still it is large enough for all practical purposes. The benefits to be derived are not few, and among these we might name the good feeling and the spirit of fellowship which would result from the more intimate acquaintance which would thus be formed.

PROF. SCHURMAN has handed us the following letter from Lord Dalhousie in reply to his inquiry as to the proper pronunciation of the word *Dalhousie*—a point on which there is such diversity of opinion among us.

*My Dear Sir*,—I have always pronounced my own name as if the "ou" in it were sounded like the "ou" in "now." An uneducated Scotchman, talking very broad Scotch, would probably pronounce it as if the "ou" were sounded like the "oo" in "moon." But he would make some other differences too. He would probably say, "*Dalhoossie*." What the ancient pronunciation may have been, I don't know, but all educated Scotch people would pronounce my name in the same way that I do, and would have no hesitation about it.

Yours faithfully,  
DALHOUSIE.

PROFESSOR J. G. SCHURMAN.

THERE is a matter to which attention should have been drawn before, and that is the anomalous position which the students at the Law School occupy. Upon a strict interpretation of the act relating to articulated clerks, the time spent in attending lectures is wasted. This is not as it should be. The work done there should be recognized; it may not be too late to amend the law in this particular.

WE had hoped that our suggestion as to Local Examinations would call forth some response from those interested. We are sure that the subject is by no means an unimportant one. Perhaps the Alumni Association can take the matter in hand at their forthcoming meeting and make some recommendation to the proper authorities.

THERE seems to be every prospect of successfully starting a Literary Society in connection with Dalhousie. The right parties have taken the matter in hand, and if sufficient encouragement is given, a meeting will be held immediately after the sessional examinations for organization.

### CHAUCER'S "PROLOGUE."

Among the greatest of English poets stands Geoffrey Chaucer. His chief work is the "Caunterbury Tales," a collection of stories of ever-varying incident and style. For the grouping together of these, some apology had to be offered, and a bond of union forged. A prologue was therefore written. This prologue is one of the gems of literature. A distinct poem of remarkable power, it would alone have immortalized its author. It is an introduction of 858 lines; and probably no other 858 lines of connected literature suggests to a reader so much, or imparts such a thirst for more. A fit entrance to beauties beyond, we can scarcely imagine a mind in which it would fail to inspire a longing to know what those beauties were.

The opening lines, breathing the freshness of spring, call up before us a London inn, and a party of pilgrims. Among them we see the poet himself. The meeting is quite accidental, but when it is found that he and they are embarked in the same enterprise—a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket at Caunterbury—the knowledge induces a feeling of fellowship. It is agreed that they shall travel together. The poet then proceeds to describe his future companions. These descriptions we may divide into two classes—clerical and lay. Out of thirty, ten are connected with the Church; and, in the description of six of these we have the most vivid picture extant of the religious teachers of England towards the close of the fourteenth century. The sketches are steeped in humor and sharpened by satire; in one only—that of the parson—does the poet deal wholly in earnest words, with but one meaning. There he feels and shows that single-hearted devotion to duty is a sacred thing, and that in portraying true nobility of character, mirth would be a desecration. The chase-loving Monk, the accommodating frere, the punctilious nun, the vulgar sompnour, the crafty pardoner, are treated with no such delicacy; and in no more striking manner could we have had contrasted insincerity and conscientiousness, self-indulgence and self-denial, vagrancy and earnest life.

Of the lay characters we can only repeat what we have said of the clerical. They are graphic and life-like. We have the Knight and his son, representatives of the poet's ideal chivalry, youthful and mature; their attendant, honest, valiant, and true-hearted. Two merchants and four representatives of trades are briefly introduced. They are of the backbone

of the country; but, alike substantial and commonplace, they present nothing to detain the poet's imagination. Their cook is passed over with humorous contempt. Then comes, mounted on an ill-ridden horse, a typical salt, reckless, jovial, valiant, and piratical. A doctor, superficial, ostentatious, greedy, and close, precedes the wife of Bath, respectable, scrupulous, and self-important. A typical scholar of the middle ages accompanies (strange contrast!) a bustling lawyer, and an epicurean Franklin. The ploughman is brother to the parson, and resembles him in charity and conscientiousness. A rascally, muscular miller, a sly, over-reaching manuciple, a shrewd and calculating baliff; these complete the list. We have now before us types of nearly every form of English fourteenth century life; exponents of almost every feeling, upholders of almost every whim. What an aid to the intelligent appreciation of the history of the period!

Such is the company in the Tabard inn on that April night. Supper is over, the host appears, and, ready to entertain his guests, he demands their assent to a proposal. It is promptly given; and it is agreed that to enliven the morrow's ride, each shall compete in a story-telling contest, of which the host is umpire. A free supper, at the expense of the beaten, shall reward the victor. All retire to rest, and the morning witnesses an early start. The host, as leader, soon calls a halt; lots are drawn to decide the initiator of the competition. The lot falls on the Knight and the prologue ends as he, resigned to his fate, is about to begin his tale.

### COLLEGE NEWS.

THE Student's Bible Class and Prayer meeting met, as usual, on Saturday evening, March 15th. The evening was unfavourable, yet a large number showed by their presence the interest taken by them in the work and object of the meeting. After the usual opening exercises, the subject for the evening—the Saviour's second coming, as found in I. Thes., IV. 13, 18, and V. 1, 8,—was opened in a spirit, and with an interest that bespoke a sincere desire to know the Truth. Messrs. Smith, Coffin, Campbell, McDonald and others took part in the exercises, a prominent feature of which was the mutual asking and answering of questions on the various topics in the passage. An intermission in the discussion was occupied with devotional exercises and at 8.30 p. m., the singing of a hymn closed a profitable meeting. Attention, by the way, was called in the course of the meeting, to the too well known

fact that exams.—to so many the bugbear of college life—were looming up in the distance and the temptation might be strong to desert the Saturday night meeting. But, as was stated that evening, it has been found by those who have given an hour each week to this meeting through the *whole session* that it pays, and it is to be hoped that the increased interest hitherto shown in this meeting will continue unabated to the end.—COM.

THE LIBRARY.

WE give below a list of books added to the Arts Library during the year 1883 and so far in 1884. It would seem that the contributions, though comparatively few in number, are by no means inconsiderable in value, and it is but an act of justice to the donors that their gifts should be acknowledged. We shall endeavour, therefore, in future to announce through the GAZETTE the donations to the Library :

TITLES.	DONORS.
1883.	
Hamilton's Logic .....	Prof. MacGregor.
Elementary Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism, by Silvanus P. Thomson	"
Wormell's Dynamics.....	"
Maxwell's Theory of Heat.....	"
Encyclopædia Britannica, vols. 1-15.	R. Sedgewick, Q.C.
Chambers's Encyclopædia, 18 vols.	{ Student's Lecture Committee.
Blackstone's Commentaries, Ewell.	Soule & Bugee, Boston.
Indevmar's Common Law Cases.....	"
Guthrie on "Spencers' Unification of Knowledge."	{ The Author, M. Guthrie.
Report and Collections of the N. S. Historical Society, for 1882-3....	{ The Society.
Official Catalogue, International Exhibition .....	Rev. Dr. Honeyman.
Measurement of the Force of Gravity at Sapporo .....	{ H. Cato, Pres. Department of Law, Science and Literature, Tokio, Daijaku.
Calendar Queen's College, Kingston.	Registrar Queen's Col.
Statutes of Canada, 46 Vict. vols. 1 and 2 in one (1883).....	Dominion Governm't.
Sessional Papers, vols. 7 and 8, Ses. 1883	"
Journals Ho. of Com., Canada, vol. 17, Session 1883.....	"
Journals Senate of Can., vol. 17, Ses. 1883 .....	"
Ses. Papers, vol. 5, Ses. 1883.....	"
Maps accompanying Ses. Papers.....	"
Smithsonian Miscel. Col., vols. 22-27.	Smithsonian Institu'n.
1884.	
Report of the Scientific Results of the Exploring Voyage of H. M. S. Challenger, 7 vols.....	John Doull, Esq.
Catalogue Canadian Plants, Pt. 1, John Macoun.....	Geological & Natural History.
Report of Progress for 1880-81-82.....	Survey of Canada.
Encyclopædia Britannica, vol. 16 .....	R. Sedgewick, Q.C.

REVIEWS, NOTICES, &c.

THE CORRESPONDENCE UNIVERSITY. Announcement for 1884 :

The purpose of this admirable institution is to "enable students to receive at home systematic instruction, at a moderate expense, in all subjects which can be taught by means of correspondence ; whether the studies be collegiate, graduate or professional, or preparatory for the higher institutions of learning." It is too soon to pronounce upon the success of the scheme, but there are indications that there is a field for a University of this sort.

CATALOGUE OF THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 1883-84 :

The annual Catalogue of this Society shows that 43 students were in attendance ; the library numbers about six thousand volumes, and the number of graduates is upwards of 240. Rev. H. Macdonald Scott, B. A., B. D., is Sweetser and Michigan Professor of Ecclesiastical History. Mr. Scott graduated at Dalhousie in 1870.

THE CANADIAN RECORD OF NATURAL HISTORY AND GEOLOGY, with proceedings of the Natural History Society of Montreal. J. T. Donald, M. A., Editor :

This Journal is to take the place of the *Canadian Naturalist*, the publication of which has been suspended, and is to be published quarterly. The number before us contains two articles by Principal Dawson, "On Rhizocarps in the Palæozoic Period," and "On the Geological Relations and Mode of Preservation of Eozoon Canadense," (abstract of paper read before British Association at Southport, 1883.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION on the Common, Academic, Normal and Model Schools of Nova Scotia, for the year ending 31st October, 1883 :

This bulky report is before us, and deserves more space than we can afford to give it. The importance of education for the people few will deny ; and the tax-payers of this Province may well inquire where the enormous sum of \$612,869.79 is being spent. Yet few of them will ever know. A few hundred copies of the report are struck off, the most of which find their way into interested hands, and so it comes that the people, who are after all the persons whose wishes are to be consulted, really know nothing

as to the educational policy of the country—or rather of the Superintendent of Education. The GAZETTE has before pointed out the desirability of having an education department, at whose head would be an officer directly responsible to the people, an officer who would explain and defend in the legislature the changes about to be made. True, we have a Council of Public Instruction, but the merits of this institution are no means evident, while the objections are by obvious. The salaries of teachers are on the increase, which is certainly a desirable feature, and the proportion of the population at school during some part of the year was 1 in 4.4. It is plain that taken all in all, the Common Schools are doing good, faithful work. We wish we could say as much for the County Academies. But this is not so much their own fault as it is of the miserable system pursued. Grants to Academies are given in many cases, the only effect of which is to decrease local taxation. This subject requires airing. The Normal School costs the Province upwards of \$6,000 a year. As if to carry the farce of a Training School still further, a *primary* department has been opened to prepare teachers for grade D. Surely this is work to be done by County Academies. We are informed that the Educational Associations are in a flourishing condition.

THE WEEK, an independent journal of Literature, Politics, and Criticism. Edited by Charles G. D. Roberts :

Several numbers of this new venture in Canadian journalism are before us. By far the most interesting feature is the "Current Events and Opinions" column by "A Bystander." Whether the *Week* has in it the elements of perpetuity remains to be seen, but at any rate we heartily wish it success.

AMONG THE COLLEGES.

THE University of St. Andrew's has conferred the degree of LL.D. on Chancellor Fleming of Queen's College, Kingston.

THE *College Journal* from the College of the City of New York finds its way to our sanctum for the first time. It is a newsy periodical.

AMHERST COLLEGE was chartered in 1825. The number of students is 329. Its religious creed is Congregational, and the library contains 36,025 volumes.—*College Journal*.

THERE has been trouble at Princeton. A mild rebellion has been in progress, but the latest accounts were that the students had "backed down." It is difficult to discover the origin of the dispute, but it appears that the students accused the Faculty of "spying."

THE McGill students are getting out a new song-book, and already "several hundreds of dollars have been raised for the purpose." By the way what has become of the book, *Carmina Dalhousiana*? Does any one ever use it now-a-days,

WE have received the initial number of the *Pioneer*, a journal to be published monthly at St. John's, Newfoundland. It is the organ of the Wesleyan Academic Literary Institute, but "professes to be liberal in its views, broad and general in its principles ; its columns being open to contributions from all, independent of country, creed, or political bias." We like the tone of "Our bow to the Public." A correspondent "Studiosus" sets forth with much truth the miserable plight of law students in the "ancient colony." Surely he might have spared the remark that Dalhousie was in a foreign country. We assure him that if he comes to Dalhousie he will receive a hearty welcome, and will, moreover, find here quite a colony of Newfoundlanders. We shall be pleased to exchange with the *Pioneer*.

DALLUSIENSI A.

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.

LEAP year is doing its work. Four students engaged this term, seven are on the verge of it.

A SOPHOMORE makes Livy speak of the foot cavalry, another translates commentaries as note books.

JUNIOR : Would that I might have the pleasure of carrying that lady up stairs. SENIOR : Go ahead, then, you have my permission.

ONE of the Seniors is talking of taking round a subscription list to pay for their oyster supper. What next?

A REMARKABLE change is apparent in our tender Sophling. If he is not at church every evening he is found next door to it.

MANY of the students mixed in the common herd that followed the procession on St. Patrick's morn. They relate some very unstudent-like experiences.

SOME of the Sophs. show such a marked degree of ignorance in chemistry, that when the arsenic rings were being passed round their professor had to warn them not to mistake them for oysters.

IT is easier for a camel to say "Thank you" than to be a lady's chaperon appointed *par sa soeur*. Moral : Next time ask herself.

WE hear that some of the ladies of the English Literature class have so many postulants that they are disposed of by lottery.

Two of our students finding their propensity to amativeness asserting itself of late, began the study of Skullology, and after an examination of their bumps are now loud in their assertions that there really is something in the science.

It was one of the most artful pranks that was exhibited by a Freshie in church the other night, when he gave away both Hymnal and Bible so that he might gaze at the young ladies.

WE have heard that a lady from Wolfville Seminary has written to a friend in this city intimating that she has had proposals from all the theological students of Dalhousie, but has declined them all. Her accomplishments must be of the highest.

ONE of the Meds. and his janitorial highness the other day had a private assault-at-arms. The exhibition which consisted of two rounds and an interlude was exceedingly exciting, and had the janitor met the fist that went through the pane of glass it is probable that there would have been a fresh subject in the dissecting room.

THE Medicals, not content with the University "Sleigh-drive," started one of their own a few nights ago; the turn-out consisted of a cornet, a flute, the janitor's sleigh of a hundred winters, and Medicals in force. The streets of the southern suburbs were paraded with such success that citizens of that locality have demanded an extra police force from the City Fathers.

JUNIOR wishing to air his German: "Here," Miss, "I always write my autograph in German, being at least a namesake, if not a relative, of the Marquis of Lorne." "Translate Georgie dear,"

"When you read remember me"—

Why you forget that your German quotation is equivalent to the French "*Vivent les fous.*"

PERSONALS.

REV. F. W. ARCHIBALD, M.A., is at present preaching at Kingston, Ontario.

PROFESSOR MACGREGOR lectured on "Storms in the Sun" in the basement of St. Andrew's Church, on the 11th inst.

REV. JOHN McMILLAN, B.D., of Truro, a Governor of Dalhousie College, has received a call to Chalmers Church of this city.

H. H. WHITTIER, a former student of Dalhousie, has removed from this city to practice law at Shelburne, where he will find Joseph Morton, M.D., B.A., '76, dispensing pills and powders, etc.

MR. F. S. KINSMAN, B.A., '80, and J. M. McLean, mentioned in our last issue as attending Medical Colleges in New York, have since graduated with honours, both making an average above 90 p.c. Mr. McLean will summer in the North-West and winter at Edinburgh University.

THE following extracts from the Report on Education will not be without interest to Dalhousians:

The Academy at Baddeck continues to prosper. Mr. Patterson, the Principal, is devoted, heart and soul, to the success of the institution. In the advanced department, instruction in the elements of natural science is hereafter to be made a speciality. The Principal has been for some time collecting materials for a museum of geology and mineralogy, to which he has added a cabinet of Indian relics of the stone age, and other curiosities from every clime. A day of bright promise is evidently dawning on the Baddeck Academy.

On the resignation of Mr. McInnis, at the close of the winter term, Mr. McKittrick returned to his old post in the Sydney Academy. This institution continues in a most flourishing condition.

The Academy at Windsor has had a successful year. Mr. John F. Godfrey, who had conducted the Academic department with such marked success for the past seven years, resigned last Spring, and Mr. Hiram Elliott, a teacher of fine ability and qualifications, was secured for the principalship.

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 "

SATISFACTION 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..... 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.