

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

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## POEDIL AL FLEN.

*A Sonnet in Volap k.*

Kis binom flenüg velatik ?  
Binom ket gelüdik,  
Kel tanom lanis keliedik tel  
Tenaliko fimik ; tan nidik kel  
Fetanom jüs fin omas in oma  
Kip, du dols e juits velik lifa.

Kis binom flenüg velatik ?  
Binom klif subimik,  
Ai pailit l dub stel dugik,  
Jelöp de teps lifa fümik,  
Fimik as öinoms bels diaminik.

Kis binom flenüg velatik ?  
Binom näm milagnik,  
Keli givom löf netik al man mana  
Mekad nämik, al dugön ve bit oma  
Omi, et al talik kaladi  
Oma sutovön j len s li.

[TRANSLATION.]

## LINES TO A FRIEND.

What is true friendship? 'Tis a chain of gold  
That binds two kindred souls forever fast ;  
A shining band that joins them in its hold,  
Through all life's pains and pleasures, to the last.

What is true friendship? 'Tis a lofty cliff  
Illumined ever by a guiding star ;  
A sure retreat from all the storms of life  
Firm as the adamantine mountains are.

What is true friendship? 'Tis a wondrous force  
That man's own inbred love for man supplies ;  
A mighty power to guide him on his course,  
And raise his earthly nature to the skies.

—Brunonian.

Ah ! how hard it is to climb  
The steeps where Fame's proud temple stands afar ;  
Oh ! who can tell how many a soul sublime  
Has felt the influence of malignant star !

## JOURNALISM AS A PROFESSION.

THE Press is the growing profession. Even now in many respects it surpasses all others. The printed sermon burns into the hearts of thousands who never hear one spoken; the bench to which the lawyer bows, lacks the sovereign power of that which daily lends its ear to the pleading of the journalist; diseases that pill and powder could not cure, have been prevented by sanitary reforms instituted in the Press: as the university of the people, it imparts information on every conceivable subject, while recording day by day the history of the day before.

In the domain of politics it is known as the Fourth Estate. Full well the statesman knows the fate of measures or governments if a *Times* should thunder at the Cabinet door. Editor Stead, of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, writing recently on this subject, said, that although only a young man, he had seen through the influence of the Press, "the rise and fall of parties, the creation and dissolution of governments, the raising and disbanding of armies, the declaration of war and the maintenance of peace." Far more powerful than Camp or Forum, it quietly determines questions that once led armies to battle, or plunged a country in civil war. But a still grander work is in its hands. Indicating daily on its pages the pulse-beats of the nations, the joys and sorrows of our common humanity, it is bringing the world into the union of an universal brotherhood, and shall yet consummate "The Federation of the world, the Parliament of man."

England, of course, is justly proud of the superior dignity and authority attained by its Press. The utterances of her leading journals

are often flashed over wire and cable, and received with respect throughout the civilized world. Their influence is such that it may almost be said that the deliberations of an editorial syndicate are as important to the nation as the councils of its Cabinet. The dignity of these great journals is maintained at enormous cost. At every court in Christendom their representatives are found, as one rather pompously remarked, with the rank of an ambassador and the pay of a prince; while expeditions of war or peace are attended by staff correspondents with retinues and conveniences equal in every respect to that of the commander-in-chief. Such an institution of course has attracted to its service men of rank and ability, many of whom have won great distinction. Dickens was a reporter on the *Chronicle*. So also was Lord Campbell when a young man. Special correspondent Russel was known in almost every court in Europe, and had been invested with the stars of various continental orders. In our own day we have such journalists as Walters, Smalley, Forbes, Hall, Labouchere, Sala and McCarthy. Walters, who has conducted the *Times* for fifty years, has been raised to a seat in the House of Lords, in token of his services to his profession and his country, while in the lower House some forty of his brethren are numbered among Her Majesty's faithful Commons.

At the last annual conference of the National Association of British Journalists, held at Leeds, Sir Algernon Bothwick, M. P., the president, spoke in the most encouraging terms regarding the coming rank of the journalistic profession. He said the journalists of England were working hard to place it in the front rank, second to none. It was so rapidly developing, that many a family would be wise to educate their boys for the work, and he was certain that a young man of good intelligence would find a great future in the ranks of journalism. "Is not that a power," he asked, "to which men ought to devote themselves as to a profession, which can do more than any other to alter the course of legislation, to institute enquiry, to make the issues of peace and war, to spare the blood of our children and to economize the millions of our hard working

classes? Moreover, there can be no better training than journalism for fitting a man to take his place at the helm of state. No other compares with it except that of the advocate. Watching events day by day, and year by year, the journalist, unlike the lawyer from his brief, speaks from experience and strong conviction, and the man who has thus gone through public affairs as a constant judge ought to be one, who, if his talent be sufficient, should rise to high eminence in the state."

But, it may be asked, What inducements does journalism offer to young men in Canada? In reply we would ask, Did not George Brown and Joseph Howe find in it the path to honor and undying fame? Did not Canada obtain from it such men as Laird, White and Mills, to fill the highest positions in the gift of the people? Did not Nova Scotia discover in Editor Fielding her need of another journalist for her Premier? Surely, when men like Goldwin Smith resign fame and fortune in Great Britain to assume the pen of a journalist in Canada, we may feel certain that the Press is not only growing in authority and influence, but will equal at no distant date its sister institution in the mother land. Difficulties may lie in the way of its advancement, but talent, energy and education, with the growing enthusiasm of its members, will yet surmount them all.

Journalism, however, while often adopted by literary men, is not, strictly speaking, literature; and from this fact, no doubt may be attributed the idea lingering in a few minds, that a journalist must be a sort of social nondescript, knowing perhaps a little about everything, and probably not much of anything. Such characters, no doubt, are to be found in the profession, but generally in their proper place. Other professions are similarly attended. Theology has its salvationists, medicine its quacks, and law its "fell attornies." Some loose characters follow the Press as well as other callings, to pick up the crumbs that fall from their masters. But positions of honor and importance are only open to culture and ability. The apprenticeship of a journalist, moreover, is not served in a day. It need not necessarily be altogether in the office, it

## SHOOTING STARS.

AN INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE DISCOURSE ON  
CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

A glittering star is falling  
From its shining home in the air.

—Heine.

A very large audience greeted Professor MacGregor at the Institute last evening. The speaker remarked in opening that the articles which appeared not long ago in provincial papers concerning the fall of a meteor somewhere near St. John, and the general interest that seemed to be manifested, had led him to think that a discussion of shooting stars, though perhaps a somewhat difficult subject, would not prove uninteresting at this time.

All are familiar with the phenomena of shooting stars. Sometimes very quickly, at other times more slowly, sometimes with a tail of light, and sometimes without, sometimes accompanied by a detonation or by the sound of faint far off thunder, and sometimes in silence they appear. And sometimes they are accompanied by the fall of meteoric stones, or meteorites. For a long time scientific men considered the fall of solid bodies to the earth from the sky unproven; but it is now established that aërolites are shooting stars which have reached the earth.

It has been estimated that a single observer may see, on an average, 14 shooting stars in an hour, and that if observers were posted so as to observe the whole heavens at the same time they would see ten thousand times as many, or 140,000 in an hour. This gives a faint idea of their immense number. In the space through which the earth passes they appear to exist in such numbers that each is about 250 miles from its neighbours. When we recollect the size of the earth and the velocity with which it moves, we see that it must meet an enormous number of them, and though they are relatively small, ranging from a few grains to a few tons, yet in the aggregate they must lead to phenomena of great magnitude.

The direction of meteors can be observed. True, they last but a short time—but a few seconds—yet when men who are familiar with the heavens note from different points the apparent direction, a comparison and a simple mathematical calculation enable them to locate the position of the meteor at first, its height and its direction. Thus it has been found that they enter our atmosphere at a height of about 100 miles, and travel in different directions at the average rate of 30 miles per second—sometimes faster, sometimes more slowly.

may be for the greater part in the University. A student who takes the special course for journalists at Dalhousie College will, at the end find himself, if possessing the necessary talent, placed far ahead of one who began at the same time in an office. The broad outlook on the world with its history and progress, the ability to cope with questions of constitutional and international law, and of political economy, which it is the aim of this course to afford, cannot fail to be of the utmost advantage. There are subjects, however, which as yet it does not include, requiring the attention of the aspiring journalist. The history of legislation and of political parties may be mentioned as among the most important. But on all the subjects above mentioned we submit that the self-appointed instructors of the people have no right to be ignorant.

There are some, however, who claim that the newspaper office is a college in itself, affording all the training necessary for journalistic work. No doubt they believe in Horace Greeley's jest, that of all the horned cattle he ever had about his office, the college graduate was the most useless. Well, Horace is gone, and as the great paper he founded attributes much of its success to the eminent collegians who fill its editorial chairs, we may assume that his idea will not be long in following him. It will rankle for a while, however, in the minds of a few jealous mortals, who, because unfortunately deprived of a college education themselves, affect to despise it in others. We do not contend that a college education is essential to success. Many journalists and lawyers of high standing were never enrolled in a college. But we do most emphatically contend that no matter how or where his information is acquired, no true journalist, worthy of the name, can be unacquainted with the subjects enumerated in the special course provided by this University.

We recommend the following to the consideration of those of our students who are inclined to think that they can get along without physical exercise:

"To the strong hand and steady head, the capacious lungs, and vigorous frame, fall, and will always fall, the heavy burdens; and where the heavy burdens fall, the great prizes fall too."

—*Laws of Life.*

When we examine a meteoric stone we find it very similar to terrestrial stones, some consisting largely of metals, such as iron and nickel. How is it that such a stone becomes luminous—is transformed into a bright star? Simply by friction. When the brakes are applied to the wheels of a car the friction causes the emission of sparks of heated metal. So with the meteorite. Coming into contact with the atmosphere and with such terrific velocity, heat is generated by the friction and the stone becomes a fiery mass. Sir William Thomson shewed that friction would account for the incandescence of meteors by taking an iron disk, fixing a thermometer before it, and then causing the disk to revolve rapidly. At a velocity of 125 feet per second the thermometer rose one degree. At double the velocity the heat was quadrupled—and so on. At a velocity of 30 miles per second the heat developed would thus be far more than sufficient to raise the meteoric stars to incandescence.

Where do the meteorites come from?

From their resemblance to volcanic rocks. It has been thought that they were thrown from volcanoes in the moon. There are at present no active volcanoes observable on the surface of the moon, but there are visible (as shown by the speaker in a lime-light view of a portion of the moon's surface) the empty craters of what have been immense ones—perhaps capable of hurling matter in the form of meteorites far into space. Again it has been thought that they were hurled from the planets, but it is not probable that our meteorites come from the planets.

Another theory, and a more probable one is that they were at some former time hurled forth from the earth's volcanoes—and that the earth is now in its path around the sun gathering up again the debris of its own volcanic action in times long past.

The speaker then went on to speak of meteoric showers, showing that they were simply groups of meteors moving in a fixed elliptical path around the sun, intersecting the earth's path at a certain point, and coming in contact with the earth itself at greater or less intervals as determined by the length of time it took them to complete a revolution. One group with a small circuit to complete meets the earth every year—in August. Another meets it but two or three times every 33 years—and others at smaller or greater intervals. The way in which the paths of these meteor-swarms are determined was described; and the fact that the paths of some of them coincided with the paths of certain comets naturally led to a study of comets. By means of

spectrum analysis something of their nature was learned. Light from a solid or liquid body when analyzed by means of the prism reveals a spectrum composed of an infinite number of shades of colors. The colors revealed by the analysis of light from a glowing gas are much less complex. By applying this test in the case of comets, it was found that the light from the head revealed only one or two colors, while that from the tail could be resolved into just such a spectrum as obtained from sunlight reflected from a solid body. In other words, the head of the comet was found to be gaseous, and the tail composed of solid bodies. Again, if a meteoric stone is heated and some of the gas from it collected, the light from this when it is heated reveals the same colors when analyzed as does the light from the head of the comet. It is therefore concluded that comets and meteor-swarms are probably the same thing. What appears as a comet when seen by reflection of the sun's light appears as a shower of shooting stars when it encounters the earth.

The astronomer Lockyer has recently given rise to some important speculations. He has collected meteorites from all parts of the world and analyzed the light as before explained, and finds it similar to that from nebulae, variable stars, comets and some other heavenly bodies. From this he has concluded that nebulae and variable stars may be due to the clashing together of meteor-swarms.

We know that by the meeting of groups of meteors just such phenomena as that presented by variable stars and nebulae would be produced. Thus, if two groups crash into one another there would be a brilliant illumination, growing gradually, then gradually declining. Just such is a variable star. And if the colliding swarms had a sufficiently great velocity, they might be so largely volatilized as to present the appearance of a mass of glowing gas, *i. e.*, they might become nebulae.

The lecturer then referred to the changes which recent research has rendered necessary in the theory of the origin of the heavenly bodies. The lesson to be learned is that all theories are only transient. Facts only give us a sure foundation. We should be ready to accept a better explanation, and not cling to a theory if facts must be distorted to uphold it. Theories are transient. No theory of fifty years ago is held to-day exactly as then. They are continually coming and going. They are useful as a means of gaining further knowledge—that is all. Let us not be afraid of them. They are necessary. But let us also be ready to reconsider, and if possible improve them.

Prof. MacGregor's lecture was illustrated by lime-light views representing the moon, comets and shooting stars. It was an admirable discourse and the difficult parts were made clear with great skill.

[We have taken the above account of Dr. MacGregor's lecture from the *St. John Daily Sun*, after making such emendations as suggested themselves.—EDS. GAZETTE.]

#### THE PESSIMIST, PAST AND PRESENT.

THE word Pessimist, so frequent in the mouth of us moderns, so inconsiderately and ignorantly applied, as though involving a stigma to every poet who dreams a dream of *good* for us, to every stern sage and fearless prophet who dares oppose the clamorous undulations of error, the babbling sough of nescient hearsay, the petulant ebb and flow of vulgar prejudice,—this magic flow may, I say, at first sight be considered a recent sprout of the mysterious Human Speech; but, on reflection and historic survey, we find that it clothes an idea as old as the world, and its tenant, man. The faithful teacher of man has been in all ages, we are told, one who appeals from the "seen" to the "unseen." He does not contemplate what is, but what ought to be; hence he is dissatisfied with himself first of all, and then with the society and institutions around him, with august governments, democracies and orators above him, that claim his admiration, and at the same time with the blind weakness, the pitiful self-sufficiency, and sorrowful moral poverty of the rabble millions that grope beneath him.

This, it may be argued, is a stretching of the ordinary sense of the epithet pessimist. Let us look and see. A standard dictionary gives the definition of the word:—"One who is displeased with things as they exist, thinking that all is for the worst." Now, this I maintain, is what every great man, call him king or president, be he prophet priest or legislating seer, was and must be. He thinks that what *is* in great measure should not be, and what *is not* in a large sense, ought to be. He believes that what is seen is temporal, what is unseen, eternal. He feels that *Time* with its might of sights is but the threshold of eternity, that tearless, mellow morn. He looks on death as the portal drear to pastures green with *Life and Rest*. All that is, is indeed, for the worst; but all that is to be can only be hastened on by passionate dissatisfaction with existent wrong. In a word your pessimist is the optimist of the "ideal." As far as this present with its hypocrisies and jealousies, its failures and oppressions, its broils and toils, its cruelties and pressing wants of food and clothes and shelter, side by side with ease and selfish luxury, so

far as the sense-apparent world is concerned, I say, they are pessimists. But only *thus* far.

I might substantiate this view of pessimism by numerous examples from the history of the world's greatest sons, both in the dim dawn of years and in the comparatively noon-day lustre of our present century. But in the brief space of this article, I can only single out a few types from different periods.

Such a pessimist, first of all, was Isaiah, 'rapt Isaiah,' foremost seer among the Hebrews. Where in all literature can we find such withering rebuke and scathing denunciation of a world "lying in wickedness," of a "rebellious house," of idolatrous, adulterous men and women, of blind watchmen, of "greedy dogs that can never have enough," and shepherds that cannot understand, as in those poetic prophesies of his? And yet withal, pessimistic as he is in regard to this sin-submerged world of ours, beyond its clouds and dismal vapors he sees flashes of a dazzling radiance, which draws him upward, and fills his heart with buoyant hope. The "Sun of Righteousness" is to arise with healing in his wings. There is to come "a root out of the stem of Jesse." A man is to be "a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest." The mountain of the Lord's house is to be established in the tops of the mountains, and to be exalted above the hills, and the people are to flow into it. And, withal, in this mountain the Lord of Hosts is to make unto all people a feast of fat things, of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees, well refined.

What is true of Isaiah is true also of Ezekiel, Jeremiah and many others, nay of all the sacred Jewish teachers. Quotations will readily suggest themselves to every one expressing grim hopelessness of the end of man's proud, sinful, waywardness. I will not stop to refer to them, but come down the slope of sacred history. I keep to Israelitish lore, for I find in it clearer utterances of moral law, than any discoverable in human records pointing to that cardinal and most momentous point in mortal's destiny—our Saviour's advent. And what do I see of the pessimist in those times, among those kingly teachers and moral Titans? Open your eyes for a moment, and unstop your ears, while in imagination you cross with me the dim wastes of land and sea and distance, while we sail back mighty centuries, and take a hurried glance at them, and hear their words: See! there goes John the Messenger! What says he of himself. "I am the *Voice*." And how does that voice speak? Does it prophesy smooth things and deceits? Ah no! "Ye generation of vipers" is its stinging challenge, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? And are the words of Christ more pal-

atable to those in the world about him? "His lightning word," says Hugo, "was a rough discourser of truth." "Ye whited sepulchres," "ye hypocrites," "ye vipers," "how can ye escape the damnation of hell," were some of his not too flattering exclamations. Was this then a looking on the bright side of things; a thinking that all's for the best? If not, why do we castigate our modern prophets, our bards and our great teachers, for their despairing and fault-finding utterances? We have had, we too, our heaven inspired teachers amongst us, and how have we treated them? For the most part, our newspapers, the exponents of civilization, have pointed at them the finger of sarcastic scorn, instead of taking up their entreating cries, and accenting them. In proof of this witness the treatment of Tennyson two years ago, when he published "Locksley Hall, 60 years after!" Witness also how Ruskin, greatest of our modern religious teachers, and more apostolical than our preachers, is spoken of by the press and by men who call themselves christian and educated.

Witness also the abusive way in which Carlyle, greatest of modern thinkers and seers, is spoken of, even in our College Halls. But this is a subject too extensive to be treated exhaustively in one essay; and it may afford scope for my pen again, or some helpful brother pen.

"AN OLD STUDENT."

**T**HE *Daily Echo* is an evening journal not yet out of its swaddling-clothes. In the 8th issue, (Feb. 9th), when we may charitably suppose its optics were much in the same condition as those of certain lower animals prior to the ninth day of their existence, it launches into criticism by taking a writer in the GAZETTE to task for misspelling "benefited with two t's." We have no desire to be hyper-critical. We only wish to suggest in all kindness, as a more fruitful field for future investigations its own pages. The issue which contains the criticism referred to, contains the following specimens:—

"... the people were so *dependant* upon ..."  
 "... they *ocassionally* meet ..."  
 "... most *appaling* indifferences ..."  
 "Penciling," "penacea," "cultimated," "treen-oiling," "boundry," "mongram," &c. Also:  
 "... the government *have* resolved ..."  
 "... the government *has* issued ..."  
 "Lord Lansdowne has been appointed to the *viceroiy* of India."  
 "*Echo selling agents*," &c., &c.

We wish the *Echo* every success and earnestly hope it will not mistake its true mission which, we humbly submit, is not at all events that of *iterary* criticism.

## THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 24, 1888.

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**I**T is now an open secret that the Board of Governors, at a meeting held some time ago, resolved to lengthen the college session by two months. The session of 1888-9 will accordingly, it is said, open early in September and close as usual the last of April. The principal reason assigned for this extension is, we believe, based upon the conviction that the present six-months' term is too short to overtake properly the amount of work prescribed in the calendar. We understand no additional subjects will in any case be laid down. While not daring to impugn the wisdom of the governors from their point of view, we would yet respectfully suggest that there is another standpoint from which they may not have duly weighed and considered the matter. We refer to the manner in which the proposed extension will affect the students. We think it will have a serious effect, particularly at the present juncture of affairs, when the Univer-

sity is entering, it may be said, upon a new era in its history,—an era when it is of the highest importance that every effort should be exerted in the way of fostering and upbuilding the college, and of bringing to its halls as large a number as possible. During the past few years, the attendance has been steadily increasing, very largely owing, no doubt, to the liberal aid afforded by exhibitions and bursaries. Not only has the number increased, but the average student now is also much further advanced on entering than formerly. The general effect of these aids has been to raise the standard of the college by requiring the competitor to possess a much more extensive and thorough knowledge than that required for mere matriculation; this presumes in most cases an attendance for two or three extra terms, at one or other of our best academical institutions. In short, so far as pecuniary matters are concerned, we may safely say that the amount expended in preparing for the junior and senior competitions outside of college, is about equal to the amount received by the successful candidate. Moreover, longer time is necessary. The whole gain has been in the extra amount of knowledge acquired. There is thus an equilibrium established which the proposed measure will, we think, do much to destroy. The exhibitions and bursaries are announced \$50 less per year hereafter, and while we have no fault whatever to find with our esteemed benefactor, George Munro, whose permanent endowments alone would entitle him to our highest gratitude, we have no doubt but that this diminution will have its effect. By far the larger number of our students are almost wholly dependent upon their own efforts, (55 of the 88 undergraduates are bursars) and after having expended several hundred dollars in preparation, they are not in a position to continue their studies in college unaided. Hitherto, however, there was one and one only resource,—that of teaching. During the summer the student could do much towards supporting himself for the winter; but under the proposed change this resource is effectually cut off. It is, of course, impossible to secure a school for four months, and even if the student absent himself for an entire

year, 6 months' employment is about all for which he can engage. The expenses in a city like Halifax are much higher than in small towns like Wolfville, Windsor and Sackville, and will be increased one-third in an 8 months' term. "But other colleges have an 8 months' term," it has been said "and Dalhousie will then be on the same footing." Will it indeed? We wish to make no invidious comparison; but it must be self-evident that whether the standard for matriculation here be higher, or not even so high as elsewhere, the keen competition which exists each fall has raised the real standard very much. It could not happen otherwise in classes the majority of whose members are either successful or unsuccessful competitors.

If not, why is it that notwithstanding the many great advantages hitherto possessed by Dalhousie, and notably that of a six months' session, so many young men go all the way from Nova Scotia to Montreal, Kingston and Toronto? We anticipate as the result of a lengthened session, a great diminution in the number of students, and, should the bursaries at any time cease, as we may very reasonably expect they will, an immediate fall in the standard of the college. If we mistake not, the colleges of the old world follow for the most part, the six months' course, and to this very fact no less an authority than Dr. Lyon Playfair attributes very largely their marked success.

**C**ONSIDERING how far gone the present session is, we do not think it inopportune to say something on a subject which is never far from the student's mind,—Examinations. Examinations mean the great wind-up of the session, the goal, as it were, of each year's ambition. Ask a student what is the be-all and the end-all of his present life, and he will answer,—Examinations. Ask him what is surer than Fate, and fully as inexorable; the answer is ready,—Examinations. No matter what other motives may incite him to great individual effort—love of knowledge for its own sake, and the power that knowledge gives; there is always a mental reference to examination lists which explains his strong devotion to study. Private ambition is

just the desire to stand high in that quarter of these lists where honor sits. All other aims are sunk *for the time* in this; though they may afterwards emerge and become more worthy objects of ambition. So important then is this time when trial is wont to be made, when each student must give an account of himself before a stern tribunal. For here all lines along which individual effort travels, meet and lose themselves. Just as in the natural world, the focus of rays of light or other similar phenomena, is a point of supreme interest, relative to other parts of the field of rays; so with this other focus of College life, which we call examination time, which embraces within narrow compass what was spread over many long months. All the lines which represent each collegiate's course through the Session meet here. Standing at this point of advantage the curious observer can easily trace out their course. He can see the line marked out by the good student, direct, straight and true, swerving neither to the right nor to the left. He can follow the course taken by the "grind," a track like that which a cyclone makes when it devastates the earth; for the "grind" gobbles up everything that comes within his reach. Again one can see the path marked out by the careless student; a line crooked, tortuous, often indistinct, and sometimes altogether lost to view, when outside attractions have enticed him from his work. Such a highly significant tale do the examination lists tell.

Again look at this subject of examinations in the light of a different comparison. Behold an immense race-course stretching away in the dim distance; at one end the competitors, at the other end the judges. It has been decided that all who do not run the course in a fixed line must undergo a certain severe (and in the opinion of some disgraceful) punishment. The barriers fall to the ground and the gownsmen are off. Then let us notice the different ways in which these run. One class of runners, (whom we hold to be the best,) have calculated the distance to a nicety, and what rate of speed they must maintain to reach the goal in good time; these move on secure of success. Another class, regarding only the great space to be gone over, rush on at a break-neck pace, and do wonders

for a time, but soon overtask their strength, and frequently are compelled to give over the contest. Notice again another class of competitors who console themselves with the flattering thought that there is plenty of time. No need for hurry, they say, we'll get there just the same. Hence the seductions and attractions of the way draw these away from the more pressing business. For a long time the race continues thus; but as the contestants near the goal the interest gathers till it assumes tremendous proportions. There is no sign of dallying about the runners now, except among the infatuated who despise imminent danger. Every eye is bent on the goal full of feverish excitement, and nature almost gives way under the tremendous efforts put forth to reach that point in time. Those who used their time well easily pass over the line into safety, and the judges, (where they are not too mean and small-souled, as in some places,) distribute prizes according to merit. Those who lingered on the way, like unwary persons in peril, have at last become alive to the danger of their position. But it is almost too late, and the chance of safety is small. With nerves strained to the utmost tension they rush desperately on. It may be that these mad endeavors have won them an ignominious safety; they are saved, but no crown of parsley decks their head. The judges look coldly on them, and scarcely repress the scorn they feel.

So much for the intense interest which centres in examinations; which we have tried to emphasize by a number of allegories. If they have been obscure or fantastic we crave pardon; which may be accorded from the nature of the subject. It will be our place to enquire in some future number of the GAZETTE what the real value of these examinations is, and what the results that flow therefrom.

**I**N our last issue appeared a letter from a correspondent, urging upon the GAZETTE some reforms in the matter of editors and their appointment. His suggestions appear to us quite reasonable, and worthy at least of a trial. There is no doubt whatever but that the Medicals will get a representative on the GAZETTE

whenever they are in a position to demand one. Their numbers at present would hardly entitle them to this privilege, but if the attendance next year is increased to the extent that is expected, we can see no reason for refusing them an editor. But the matter lies wholly with themselves. When their numbers warrant it, let them take steps to this end, and we are quite sure the other students will offer no opposition.

The second reform proposed by our correspondent, is a less obvious one. There may be difference of opinion in regard to its merits. On the whole, however, we think it well worthy of a trial. It is to some extent true that the position of editor on the GAZETTE staff is sprung upon the student rather suddenly. Little or no time is given for preparation, and in the bustle and unsettled state of things at the beginning of the session, the editors are expected to get right to work and have the GAZETTE out on time. The reform proposed would remove this as well as some other defects of the present system, by giving the editors all summer to prepare for their work. Plenty of time is what everyone likes to have, whether he needs it or not, but it is something the editors of a college paper very seldom have. Anything, therefore, that tends to secure to them an increase of that valuable commodity, must be looked on as an advantage to them; and it is on this ground that we support the proposed reform.

To this plan it may be objected, that it will be difficult to get those chosen at the spring meeting to accept the position, from the uncertainty of their being at college the next session, or the ease with which this could be made an excuse for non-acceptance. This objection, however, is not a very serious one, and should not stand in the way of the proposed change.

We would like to suggest here that there are other reforms apparently necessary in this matter. The editorial staff, as at present constituted, have to do much of the literary work of the GAZETTE, while their work should be purely editorial. It has been found almost impossible to induce the students generally to help them sufficiently in this work. They appear to think that that is all an editor has to do—what he was

appointed to do, and give the matter no more thought. Neither do the alumni render much more efficient aid. Everything seems to be left to the poor editor.

We, therefore, suggest as a much needed reform, the appointment of an assistant board of editors, whose work would be solely literary. Some means or other, better than the present, must be adopted to procure literary matter for the GAZETTE, and the way we have just mentioned is the one that appears most feasible to us.

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#### DEATH OF PETER JACK, ESQ.

It becomes our sad duty again to chronicle the death of another friend and Governor of Dalhousie. In less than ten months three of our oldest Governors have been taken away by death, first Sir Wm. Young, then Dr. Avery, and on 9th inst, Peter Jack. These were among the men who guided the affairs of the University through some of the most trying times of its history, and they had, at last, the satisfaction of seeing it established on a firm basis as one of the leading Universities of the Dominion.

The late Mr. Jack, a native of Fifeshire, Scotland, was born January, 1826. He was educated at the Academy of Dundee, and began business life as a banking clerk in that town. After holding various positions in some of the leading banks of his native country, his services were transferred to the Montreal branch of the Bank of B. N. A. Some time afterwards, he was promoted to the responsible position of Accountant of the Halifax branch of that bank. In 1864, he was appointed Cashier of the Peoples' Bank of Halifax. This position he held till the close of last year, when on account of his failing health he had to resign.

Mr. Jack was a man of considerable learning, a prominent and influential citizen, and a member of the Brunswick Street Methodist Church. To his sons and large circle of friends we extend our sympathy.

## MUNRO DAY.

Munro Day was celebrated last Tuesday in the usual jolly style known only to students and the few initiated into the mysteries of a "good time." The day was glorious and the sleighing excellent, quite relieving the anxiety that had been felt for a few days preceding about the chances of having these two requisites of an enjoyable drive—a fine day and good sleighing. At about 2.30 p.m. the students began to assemble at the College, but it was not till 3 o'clock when the word "ready" was given. Three large sleighs with four horses to each were standing ready to receive us, and into them we all packed.

The funereal aspect that the crowd had assumed at the College while waiting for the start, very quickly disappeared under the magical influence of such songs as "Rock me Julia" and "Clementine." Round the city we went, singing, shouting and laughing. Our vocal performances soon brought the worthy citizen to his door in wonderment as to the cause of the "racket," and gave the street urchin lots of chances to follow the bent of his nature and call out his suggestive cry, "rats."

After we had "done the city," we took the road for Wilson's, and reserved our lungs for what was still ahead of us. A pleasant drive of little more than an hour brought us to our destination, and there we proceeded to make things merry. The usual before-dinner amusements were indulged in, some of which were especially noticeable as having a decidedly refreshing effect.

At about 6.30, dinner was announced, to the infinite joy of the insatiable Freshman, and the secret satisfaction of his more polished rival the Soph. Both of these worthies felt that they had better call a short truce, to give them a chance to "bury their turkies." How they scrimmaged those dishes!

"Rats!  
They fought the turkies,  
And killed the geese,  
And bit the chickens,  
And ate the cheeses,  
And licked the soup from the cook's own ladles."

The Freshies rather got ahead of the rest of the company, doubtless owing to the receptivity characteristic of their class. If they can't very well "clean out" the Sophs in a straight scrimmage, they can make things lively for hotel waiters. Even the Juniors caught some of the "animus edendi" that seemed to fill the hall, and tried to do their duty. One in particular distinguished himself by his Herculean efforts. *Vae victis* was his cry, and woe indeed when he was victor.

But all good things must have an end, and so must good appetites. Even the Freshman was at last satisfied. When all felt happy under the influence of a good dinner, for the dinner was good, if not elaborate, the toast list was produced.

First came the opening speech by the Chairman, D. McD. Clarke. "Dan" made a good speech, as he always does, and gave the "boys" some very good advice.

The following toast list was then taken up and disposed of:—

*Her Most Gracious Majesty, The Queen*—proposed by the Chairman and responded to by a full chorus, in a hearty "God save the Queen."

*The Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governors*—proposed by the Vice-Chairman, V. G. Frazee, responded to by song, "Why is there only one Governor-General in Canada? "Because there's only room for one."

*Our Benefactors*—proposed by D. McD. Clarke. Feelings of gratitude to them filled every heart, and the mere mention of their names was enough to call forth rousing cheers.

*Our President, Professors and Governors*—proposed by Edward Fulton.

*Our Alumni, next to ourselves the most prominent men of the day*—proposed by J. S. Sutherland, and responded to by Mr. A. S. McKenzie on behalf of the Alumni.

Here a song from that irrepressible comic, Martin, proved an enlivening interruption. After this came,

*Alma Mater*—proposed by A. M. Morrison, and responded to by H. Putnam. Song, "Long live our College fair."

*Sister Colleges*—proposed by T. R. Robertson, and responded to by Mr. Blaikie on behalf of Mount Allison, by D. Martin on behalf of Toronto University, and by McLeod Harvey on behalf of Pine Hill.

Messages were sent from the students of the University of New Brunswick and of St. Francis Xavier College, tendering their thanks for the invitation and expressing regret at their inability to accept it. The delegates from Acadia and Kings, on account of the blockade, failed to appear for the celebration.

*College Societies*—proposed by D. C. Mackintosh, responded to by A. Macrae on behalf of the "Sodales," and D. McD. Clarke on behalf of the Y. M. C. A.

*The Graduating Class*—proposed by V. G. Frazee. Song, "For they are jolly good fellows." Responded to by D. Soloan and Wm. McDonald.

*The Press*—proposed by W. H. Magee, responded to by J. N. McLean on behalf of the

GAZETTE.

*The Ladies*—proposed by D. Soloan. Mr. Soloan felt very bashful in making his speech, and said he could not help expressing his wonder that this toast should fall to the most modest man in the whole College. This toast was responded to by Wm. Brown, the "young man eloquent."

*Our Host*—proposed by D. Soloan.

The speeches were mostly good, though there were no brilliant oratorical efforts—that sort of thing doesn't take at students' dinners. The time from this to the start for home was pleasantly filled with music, dancing, etc. At last the sleighs arrived and, after a long wait for that unendurable bore, the last man, the drive home was safely accomplished. All dispersed to their homes feeling that they had had a real jolly time, and forming the resolve that they would go to the Munro Dinner the next time they got the chance.

## REVIEW COLUMN.

NATURAL LAW IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, by Henry Wood. Boston: Lee & Shepard. Paper 30 cents.

The above is a cheap edition of an exceedingly interesting little work which aims, as its title indicates, to trace out the working and application of Natural Law in the domain of political economy. Conservative in method, it is opposed to the theories of Henry George and all writers of such tendencies; clear, lucid, and sententious in style, it commends itself to all who have any interest whatever in the greatest problems of the age. Speaking of the attempt of labor unions to force prices the author says:—"He who tries to sow the seeds of discontent in the minds of laboring men by teaching such a theory, is not their true friend. He may be actuated by an honest, though misguided sympathy, but it is none the less harmful to the laborer, and tends directly to degrade his manliness and independence. The sentimentalists who expect the laboring man will be benefited by force of combination, (as though he were going into a combat) are on the wrong track.

".... A seller of labor, or of any other commodity, is dependent on demand, and demand cannot be coerced. Whenever that is attempted it shrinks back. It is like picking a quarrel with the only friend who can help us. It would be a poor way to induce a horse to drink to force his head under water." The chapters on labor problems, socialism, arbitration, wealth and its unequal distribution, prosperity and depres-

sion, are of sterling importance. The volume has met with a very favorable reception at the hands of critics.

## DALLUSIENSIA.

"WHO stole the napkin?"

FRESHMAN, no more of that, or we'll tell on you.

"TUPPER come out of that." But *mirabile dictu*, the freshie, didn't come.

ρ—YOU'RE wise to get on the good side of the old lady first of all. Little acts of kindness will bring its own reward.

"MASHY" mashes many a maid. The latest proof of this *beautiful alliteration* is that he accompanies young ladies to concerts.

WITH which of these knives am I to cut my meat said the "erratic" soph, at the Munro celebration.

ONE of the mathematical seniors has an affection of the heart; occasionally it goes "pitty patty." We hope the trouble is not serious, Billy.

COGSWELL is anxious to know where the Ladies' College is. He should apply for particulars to Rev. Mr. Laing.

MORE rashness has never been exhibited than that in the young Freshie who calls at the Ladies' College every Friday.

SOME of the Sophs are rivals in love; but now, as always, "he who flatters most will carry off the belle," and so the Grand Duke of Amherst is apparently master of the situation.

THE tall, philosophic Soph is very anxious to come acquainted with *all* the young ladies of his class. His card was passed over to one of them the other day.

THE *pigmy High Commissioner* says "I would rather be just in this way—going with the young ladies—than married." Ah! young man, you don't know anything of matrimonial bliss.

A FRESHIE is *smarting* because a young lady of his acquaintance got ahead of him. She says "How do you pronounce c-a-s-t-o-r-i-a?" He pronounced it in the orthodox way. She responded: "Why! the doctors pronounce it harmless."

OUR tall, dignified, dark-moustached soph, lately attended the M. E. Church to hear the sable son of Africa expatiate on "temperance, righteousness and judgment." The church officer thought him a clergyman, and so when the swarthy parson came, the female official accosted him thus: "Bos, der is a white ministah up stia's."

## PERSONALS.

DR. GEORGE MURRAY, father of Tutor Murray, died at his home in New Glasgow, last week. We extend our sympathy to Tutor Murray.

In our last issue we omitted to mention that J. J. MILLAR, B. Sc. '85, is among the Dalhousie Graduates studying medicine in Edinburgh University.

PROF. MACDONALD delivered a thoughtful and eloquent lecture on "Time" a few evenings ago, in Fort Massey School Room, before a large and appreciative audience. The students turned out *en masse* to hear him. They expected great things and were not disappointed.

PRINCIPAL ANDERSON, of Prince of Wales College, P. E. I., has recently received the honorary degree of LL. D., from McGill College, Montreal. Dr. Anderson's well-known scholarly attainments and his valuable service as an educationist, merit the mark of appreciation by which McGill has honored itself in honoring him.

A. H. MACKAY, B. A., '73, B. Sc., (University Halifax,) F. S. Sc., (London,) the well-known principal of Pictou Academy, has been elected a corresponding member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and also an associate member of the American Ornithological Union. The *Pictou Standard* says he has the distinguished honor of being the only Nova Scotian member of the latter society.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Prof. Macdonald, Rev. L. H. Jordan, \$3. Miss M. Ritchie, Miss Agnes Baxter, Miss G. M. Mackintosh, Rev. Thomas Stewart, W. H. Fulton, George B. McLeod, Geo. Cogswell, F. L. Fairweather, H. McInnis, C. H. Oxley, D. L. McPhie, J. J. Buchanan, J. A. Sinclair, A. Campbell, G. O. Forsythe, J. A. Smith, A. J. Campbell, \$1 each.

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