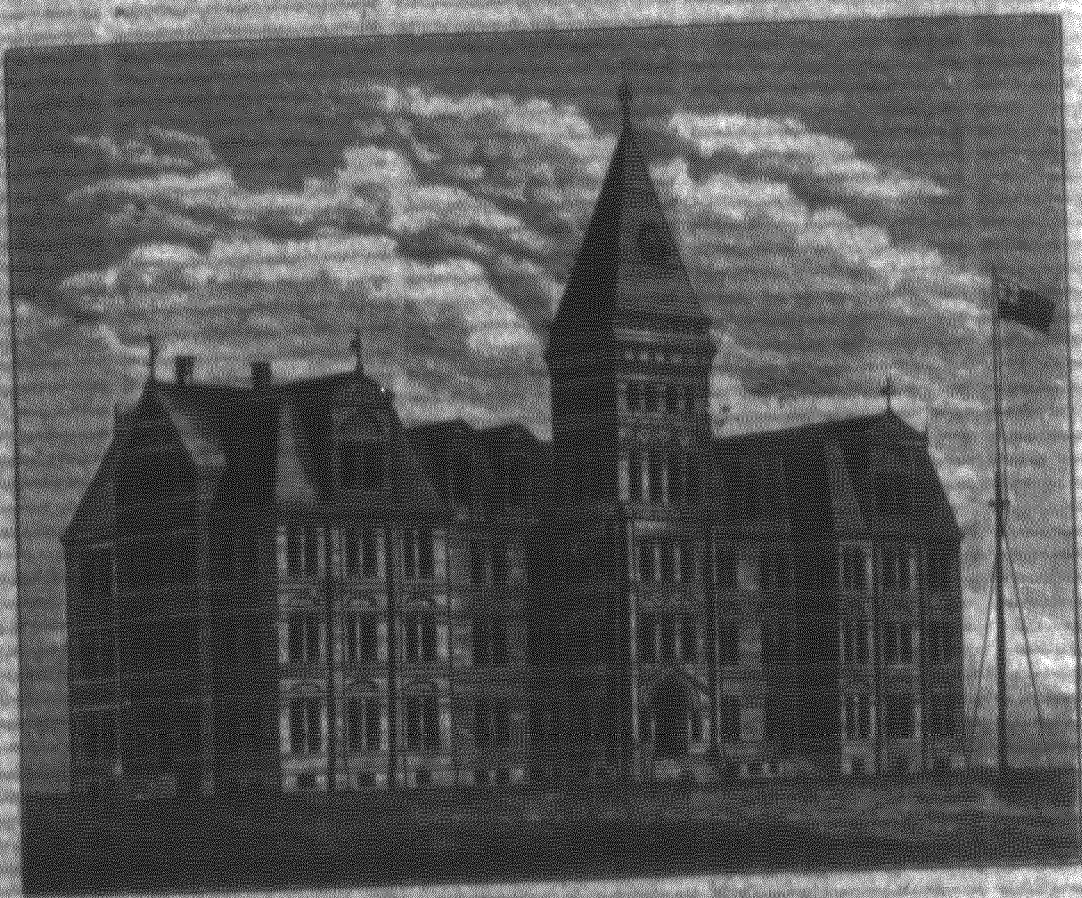


→ T R E ←

# Dalhousie Gazette.

Ora et Labora.



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SESSION, 1898-99.

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"ORA ET LABORA."

VOL. XXI.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 10, 1889.

No. 5.

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Is it best to trust  
Olden ways,  
Olden creeds,—or just  
Let the days  
Pass without distinction to their fall?

What the old year leaves,  
May be truth;  
But the new year grieves  
Over youth,  
Which it cannot lengthen or recall.

And the old words wake  
Something dear;  
And to some they make  
The new year:  
So we send the same old wish to all. —Ex.

**HORACE I, VIII.**

O Lydia! I beseech thee, say,  
By all the gods above,  
Why wilt thou ruin Sybaris,  
Inspiring him with love?

Why hateth he the sunny plain,  
Though used to dust and heat;  
Nor cometh, armed in martial pomp,  
As horseman to compete?

Why curbs he not the Gallic steed,  
And fears the Tiber's flood;  
Why shunneth he the olive oil,  
As though 'twere viper's blood?

Why comes he not, so oft renowned  
For javelin hurled far?  
Nor shows his arms all black and blue,  
From practising for war?

Why hides he as Achilles did,  
On eve of Trojan woe;  
Lest, undisguised, to Grecian troops,  
And battle he should go?—Ex.

**POSSIBILITIES AND THEIR LIMITS.**

The limits of the Possible have never been defined. No man can estimate his own ability to execute, till every power of soul, mind and body has been developed to the utmost, and who shall say when that has been accomplished? If all the thoughts of mankind were animated with a living purpose and embodied in action, the imagination cannot conceive the heights of greatness and glory to which human achievements might attain. Thousands live, move and have a being, pass off the the stage of action scarcely longer known to the world than the insects of yesterday. The resistless tide of human affairs sweeps on untouched by any impress from their lives.

But men have lived whose foot-prints still remain upon "the sands of time." Some of these have cherished noble aims, have accomplished noble ends, and have left behind them such monuments as the storms of time can never efface. Their names and deeds are as legible on the heart of humanity to-day, as are the stars in the firmament of heaven. Others are known to us by the title "great," who gaining their fame through war-like exploits, have deluged the nations in bloodshed, or who have tarnished the lustre of their intellectual greatness by vice and immorality.

It has been said that some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them. But it is only with those who achieve greatness that we have at present to do. These are they who have exerted their talents to the utmost, and have approached nearest to the limits of the possible. The writings of the orator Demosthenes are a combination of power, enthusiasm, honesty and reason, the possession of which

elements has caused them to be studied down to the present, as the highest models of all that is pure and exalted in eloquence. From the philosopher Plato came all things that are still written and debated by men of thought. Franklin appeared as a sage, come from a new world to unfold mysteries. The poet Shakespeare, styled by the world's voice the first in all literature, has been truly said to "speak a language which thrills in our blood in spite of the separation of two hundred years."

Such examples show us what lofty attainments may be made by the human mind ere the limits of the possible are reached.

However widely great men may differ in the direction of their aims and the nature of their attainments, they have all possessed some characteristics in common. Although the man is not truly great, however high he may chance to rise, if his soul lies prostrate beneath the yoke of ambition, yet he can accomplish nothing if he does not possess that element to some extent. Birds may build their nests, and bees construct their waxy cells without seeking higher employment, for nature has ordained that they shall be contented here. Some one has said that brutes and fools are the only beings who desire nothing beyond what they possess. The heart of man is constantly throbbing with unsatisfied desires. He has been created with a nature prone to grope upward, and it is the noblest and greatest who are least content with present attainments.

But ambition, like faith, is dead without works. Success in any undertaking has never been achieved by idle pleasure seekers. Napoleon may justly be called a working man. His elevation was owing to his reputation of having fought well. Genius has been properly defined "unflinching toil."

But ambition and toil will not achieve greatness without perseverance. Circumstances control small minds, but great minds control circumstances. Obstacles only tend to strengthen their purposes and make them more zealous and ardent. Hannibal faced every difficulty in crossing the Alps, but was at length rewarded with a sight of the rich valleys and sunny skies of Lombardy.

So Napoleon not to be baffled, years after in crossing these same Alps, had his guns shoved into hollow trees and slid down the slopes. The word "cannot" was blotted from his vocabulary. He saw only the object: the obstacle must give way. He set aside all the sentiments which embarrass and retard men's pursuits of great objects. So Palissy, the potter, and others whose names need only be mentioned.

But there are "limits" to possibilities. Honor says "no man can do more than his utmost." He may hope to excel in one department and should be ambitious to do so, but let him not attempt to be a universal genius. It has been truly said that a man should aim to know something of everything and everything of something. The pre-eminence of Germany in literature and other departments is owing to this division of labor—one man studying one subject all his life, and becoming complete master of it.

The practical question then lies in discovering our field of labor, finding our place in it, and exerting all our energies. As the stars, clouds and blades of grass have their own place to fill and their own work to perform, so with man. Now, by a careful study of our own abilities and of what God wills us to do, we may be able to decide where that place is. "But when we seek high missions, and are told they wait us in the drudgery despised, who is it has the faith to find them there?" Yet, though all cannot be pillars in the temple of humanity, not less important are the individual stones that help to build it up. Though our place in life may seem small and low yet from God's supreme standpoint it may look as worthy as the grand and lofty. Not the place enobles, but the manner of filling it. The glory is not in the task but in the doing of it for God:—

"Far better in its place the lowliest bird  
Should sing aright to Him the lowliest song,  
Than that a seraph strayed should take the word  
And sing his glory wrong."

Truly,

"There is more of honest fame in drying up  
A single tear than shedding seas of gore."

God looks right through all these external trappings that Carlyle very happily calls "clothes" and judges of us by our modes of work as they lay bare to Him.

Then having found our true place, so as to introduce no disorder into God's orderly universe, let us stretch every nerve, bend every obstacle, develop every faculty, train every desire, exert every energy, and we shall reach the goal of our ambition.

#### BROWNING.

The popular and prevailing conception of Browning's poetry is a striking illustration of how difficult it is for any great, original masterpiece to work its way into general appreciation. Its progress is almost invariably slow; no sudden enthusiasm is inspired, but a gradual growth, as it were, takes place, till, by perfectly natural stages, it reveals itself to our sympathy in all its greatness and perfection. In very much the same position is Browning's poetry. It includes some of the greatest works that have ever appeared in the English language; yet they do not appeal to popular sympathy as Shakespeare's great works do. There seems to be something almost repellant in them. Odd passages appeal to everyone's sense of beauty; but nearly every one of his greater works as a whole seems to have something disproportionate or inharmonious in it, though just what that is, is sometimes difficult to tell.

It is not at all surprising, therefore, that the tone of Browning-criticism should be so various—ranging from fulsome eulogy to wholesale condemnation. Some, impressed by the peculiar beauty of many of the poet's minor pieces, and also by an indefinable sense of the grandeur and beauty of his greater works, have completely lost sight of his most glaring faults. Others again have been affected just the reverse. But, with our present insight into Browning's poetry, it is just as necessary for us to avoid the one extreme as the other. We must take the poet as we find him, and accord to him the fullest sympathy and appreciation of which we are capable,—always remembering that there is an appeal open from

our judgment to that of posterity, and that, in such appeals, posterity has not always sustained the judgment of its ancestors.

If we study Browning's poetry carefully to try and find out more particularly why such various opinions have been held in regard to it, several reasons for this will become apparent. The first thing that strikes us, probably, is the depth and subtlety of the poet's thought. His mind is analytic and discursive; and delights in the investigation of complex problems. He has an evident *penchant* for searching into the unsearchable, for delving to the "very roots of things." He looks upon himself in some measure as a seer—as one upon whom devolves the revelation of new truth, and not merely new aspects of truth already known. This truth, moreover, is in its very nature most difficult to grasp, as all complex abstract truth is, and must be gradually assimilated.

To this intellectual difficulty, common indeed to all deep and subtle-minded poets, is added a new and peculiar one—what may be called the spiritual attitude of his poetry. Preeminently a subjective poet, he is that too in a manner peculiarly his own. Most poets, subjective as well as objective, deal with external nature, or with man in his relations to man and to external nature. Browning, however, has chosen a new sphere. It is the inner or soul-life of man that absorbs his attention. Instead of presenting to us a series of pictures of material nature, or of seeking to explain the evident bond of sympathy subsisting between nature and ourselves, he presents to us the novel sight of a series of spiritual pictures, indicative of the soul-life of man, its progress or retrogression. Add to this, too, the peculiar framework of the pictures—the monologue form in which most of his poetry is embodied—and we have a series of difficulties that furnish at least some excuse for the charge of incomprehensibility so often advanced against his poetry.

Nor is the charge of rhythmical harshness less without foundation. In the greater part of his poetry, we find, as Mr. R. H. Hutton says a little of the "vibrating melodious sweetness of

the tranquilising harmony, of the atmosphere of loveliness, which one usually associates with the highest powers of poetical expression." We find in his poetry, it is true, little of the repose, of the exquisite finish which we find, for example, in that of Tennyson. But we would be quite wrong in at once attributing it to deficiency on the poet's part, in the power of poetic expression. It is due rather to his different conception of art.

Though the poet is above all things, perhaps, an artist, and therefore always subject to the restrictions of art, there may be difference of opinion as to his highest aim as an artist. In Browning's view, the artist's true greatness and glory lies not in his attainments, but in his aspirations and desires. The true artist's "reach should exceed his grasp"; his aspirations should be incapable of even approximate realizations. As they approach even imperfect realization they should generate other and yet higher aspirations, and so on continuously. "Tis not what man Does, but what man would do which exalts him." All, therefore, is not "silver-grey, placid and perfect" with his art, simply because he rejected a limited perfection as unworthy of the true artist.

Hence it is quite impossible to judge Browning from the same standpoint as one would judge a poet like Tennyson. The latter is conservative, and impressed with a due respect for authority. He has the scientist's love of law and order. What he sees in nature, he sees as exemplifications of law, this conservative and orderly habit of thought tinges his whole poetry, and finds its characteristic expression in the comparative perfection and finish which he has given to his poetry.

Browning, on the other hand, is not so much impressed by the law as by the emotion which he finds manifested in nature. He sees in the whole face of nature an energy—a *Will* which exerts itself for the good of all creation. In this will, and in its miniature counterpart, the human will, he finds those problems in whose solution he is most deeply interested. He delights to penetrate to the very source of things, to reach to the very "nether springs." The results of this searching process may not always appear to us invaluable,

but to himself—who but himself can estimate them. He feels that he has often reached "a heaven that's shut to" others, though when he comes back he "cannot tell the world." It is in this latter fact, rather than in any other, that we must seek for the general explanation of Browning's artistic imperfections.

Stedman's dictum, that "his work seems that of a grand intellect painfully striving for adequate use and expression, and never quite attaining either," is scarcely just. In the first place, Browning's poetry doesn't show much trace of "painful striving" on the author's part. On the contrary his thought is clear and decisive. The rapid and leaping movements of his keen, vigorous intellect—and the poet is not careful to word every little turn—may be difficult to follow, but the effort is wholly on our part, not on that of the poet. The inadequacy of his expression, again, is inevitable from the very nature of his task. He, whose duty it is to reveal new truth, to express, as it were, the inexpressible, must be content with approximations.

Many of Browning's minor poems, however, as well as numerous passages from his greater works, show undeniably that he really has the very highest powers of poetic expression. Who can read that magnificent poem "Saul" for example, without feeling that its author is a consummate master of verse-melody? How the strong, healthy pulsations of its rhythmical movement stir the soul. Its music is pure and invigorating, without the slightest trace of cloying sweetness. Indeed Browning is always careful not to make melody a mere ornament of his poetry, but rather an organic element of it. He exhibits great skill in blending thought and melody in that mystic union in which the one is always an aid to the other, and in which neither obscures or distracts the attention from the other.

"Saul" is in every respect a good poem—one of the very best examples that can be given of Browning's power in his shorter poems. In subject it represents the beautiful youth David exercising, by the charm of his harp and song, the evil spirit of which King Saul was possessed. It is not the mere music, however, but the "truth

## Correspondence.

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

SIRS:—Previous to the breaking up for the holidays, the members of the Senior Elocution Class presented Mr. Waddell with a handsomely bound volume of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The students who attend the lectures on Elocution speak very flatteringly of the progress they have made under the efficient instruction of Mr. Waddell. It is however a matter of regret that so few take advantage of these lectures; I believe the principal reason is that the majority of the students are totally ignorant of the nature of the subject. To remedy this state of things would require a long time, and persistent efforts under the present regime; I hope however ere long to chronicle some change, whereby elocution will take that place among the other subjects, which its importance deserves. Although much has appeared in these columns concerning the advantages to be derived from the study of this subject, yet the Governors, who by the way, are very slow in adopting new ideas, have taken no steps to place it on a firmer footing in our College. It is by no means a dry and burdensome subject, but one which, by its study, affords great pleasure, and one which is absolutely necessary to every professional man. I believe we voice the sentiments of most of the students in saying we would like to see in the next Calendar, Elocution made a compulsory subject, to be taken in either the third or fourth year by every undergraduate.

STUDENT.

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS.

Sirs,—As I have long been interested in the welfare of Dalhousie College, and, moreover a constant reader of the *GAZETTE*, I was much interested in an article that appeared last year disposed to crush, if possible, the proposal to lengthen the session. Though not agreeing with the writer at the time, yet, had I known the change proposed was such as has been brought about, I should have made some effort, however feeble, to support him. By the last

of Divine love throbbing in every chord" which constitutes the spell.

The entire poem is in fact instinct with this "truth of Divine love"—love that lurks in the whole face of nature and embraces the whole range of creation. How the poet's deep and universal sympathies are revealed in David's "help-tunes"—those grand, Orphean harmonies with which he was wont to charm the birds and the beasts of the field.

Again, hear the poet as he sings that magnificent song:—

"Oh, our manhood's prime vigour! no spirit feels waste,  
Not a muscle is stopp'd in its playing nor sinew unbraced.  
Oh, the wild joys of living! the leaping from rock up to rock,  
The strong rending of boughs from the fir-tree, the cool silver  
shock  
Of the plunge in a pool's living water," etc.

Was ever the ecstatic joy in the vigorous physical life and its healthy pleasures more beautifully sung than this? We cannot but believe that the poet is here speaking for himself. There is a spontaneity about this song which could scarcely be given by any one who did not feel what he was writing. Indeed the poem from beginning to end is completely imbued with the author's personality—more so, probably, than any other of his shorter poems.

Most of the fundamental truths too of his philosophy find expression in this poem. The central one, perhaps—the keystone of his whole philosophy of life—is that in which he declares the need of the human soul for the quickening and regenerating power of divine love. In this alone does David see any hope for "Saul, the failure, the ruin he seems now. In this alone can Browning find complete self-realization for the individual. It is one of the grand, spiritual truths upon which he hinges the vigour and vitality of the soul; and he is ever urging it on our attention. It is the need against which the cold, precise, scientific Arab physician Karshish struggled vainly—feeling its truth yet fearing to own it; it is the need which is in every human heart, and which must be satisfied before man's true realization can be attained.

But the limits of my space forbid me to go further. In conclusion let me say to those who are over hasty in condemning Browning, study him thoroughly first; and you will find that the more you study him the less inclination will you have to condemn him.

calendar I see that the college programme has been extended, but I am dissatisfied at seeing so much time spent on examinations. At the beginning of the session almost three weeks elapse from the beginning of the Bursary Examinations to the commencement of lectures, while at the close there is almost a month from the last day of lectures till Convocation. Such a state of affairs would lead outsiders to suppose that the examinations were the most important part of the college work. Surely this is not the change that all your readers have heard so much about. I sincerely hope it is but an experiment that will lead up, at an early date, to something more substantial.

DALHOUSIAN.

#### A FRESHMAN WRITES TO HIS CHUM.

Halifax, Jan. 1st, 1889.

Dear Dick,

I promised to write to you often when I left home, but so far I have not kept my promise. I have enjoyed myself immensely since I came to Halifax. The only inconvenience that I have experienced is that the Sophs. (that's what we call the second year students), will not let me wear a cane. I have grown quite a moustache since I left home. I cannot exactly tell you what color it is, but it is something like the part of dad's that's not white. I like the Profs. (that's what we call them), very well; some better than others of course, but, as you intend to come up for bursaries next year, you will then find out all about them. I must give you a few hints about preparing yourself for the exams. for bursaries. In English, I think you had better be particular in learning the meaning and derivation of the word *transpire*, as you are almost sure to be asked that. It comes from *trans* across, and *spiro* I breathe. The meaning is not very plain from this, but you must be careful not to use it instead of happen, as is generally done. Thus, it is not correct to say: I transpired to be present; you must say, I happened, &c. The real meaning of *transpire* is to "leak out," spoken of something that was intended to be concealed, as state secrets, a girl's age, &c. Thus you may say:

all the state secrets have transpired; the water has transpired of the bucket. I have gone into this long explanation of it to make it plain, for I think you are sure to get it. Another point you should attend to is to write your English paper with red ink; as the Prof. always uses that himself. If you attend to these hints, I am confident that you will make an "admirable" paper.

I scarcely know what to tell you about classics, but you must get up every point, know every date, even to the very hour at which the authors were born, if it is known. Make your answers short and to the point, and if you are not very sure of anything, just put "as it were," or some such phrase after it, and your paper will be sure to be marked "Very good, sir."

In Mathematics, of course mathematical exactness is required. Your papers must not be done in a "hugger-mugger" style, nor must you leave the examiner in "Egyptian darkness" as to what you mean. A few "general remarks" at the first of the questions will count. If you don't know a question don't try it, for if you do, the ignorance you display will only be "an unfailing source of amusement" to the Professor.

In History and Geography I can give you very little advice. "The fact of the matter is" you must know the latitude and longitude of every place from North to South Pole, for you are liable to be attacked in any quarter. It would also be well to learn up the geographical position of Georgetown, Bridgewater, Digby and all cities of such magnitude. Such towns as London, Paris, and New York you may omit, for a *fortiori* you are expected to know them.

Now if you profit by all these hints I will pledge you an exhibition. Hoping to have your company next year in Dalhousie, and wishing you a Happy and prosperous New Year, I remain,

Your friend,

JACK.

OUTING for January forms a notable addition to the holiday literature of this season. The leading article, *Among the Taurus Mountains*, by L. B. Platt is an interesting account of a ride through the historic regions of Asia Minor, in which the author has given an essentially modern account of old-world localities. The illustrations are numerous and excellent.

#### A FLOURISHING DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY.

Judging from the size of the classes last year, and from the number of students taking Physiology this term, the classes in Logic and Psychology this year will each number more than one hundred and seventy-five students. It will be gratifying to beginners, to learn that Dr. Schurman will deliver the lectures on Psychology during the spring term, this year; for even with the very best of instruction this work is but a grim entrance to the more alluring halls of Ethics and Metaphysics. The work of the department this term is comprehensive. Most important of all is the course in Ethics, under Dr. Schurman, running three hours a week through the year. In this course the subject is treated exhaustively, and in fact it may be said that so complete a course has never been given in any university. The work this term comprises a survey of Ethical Methods, a determination of the Historical Method (which will be followed), and an elaborate presentation of the facts of morality, with especial reference to historical and prehistorical data. The *Ethical Import of Darwinism* will be used for text-book study. In the second term a study will be made of Ethical theories—the ancient, the Kantian, the Intuitionist, the Utilitarian theories, and especially the Evolutionary theory. Several representative text books including Spencer's *Data of Ethics* will be used. An application of principles established, to the regulation of life will be attempted in the spring term. This includes an examination, from an Ethical standpoint of the questions of Social Science. Seventy-five students are enrolled in this class and there are as many more regular visitors.

A class of seven students, three post-graduates and four undergraduates are wrestling with the subtleties of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. As a preparation they have had the elementary work, and the course in Metaphysics, which was given last year, or an equivalent. The course in Kant continues through the year, and amounts to five hours a week, and counts two. The Junior seminary consists of two post-graduates

(one, the Fellow, Creighton) who are making extended studies of special problems in Kant. The Senior seminary work presupposes a careful study of all modern philosophy, from Descartes, on. It is being taken by Miss Ritchie, who held the Fellowship here last year. Her principal subject is: German Philosophy from Kant to Lotze, with chief reference to Fichte and Hegel. The subject of Miss Ritchie's thesis is: The Philosophy of the Categories. It is a kind of examination of Kantian and post-Kantian methods of Philosophy.

In addition to all this work, there will be given by Dr. Schurman, during the winter term, a course of weekly lectures on the Philosophy and History of Religion. This course will be open to the University and will not presuppose any previous preparation.—*Cornell Era*.

One of the most interesting features of college life at Amherst is the development of the college senate. This is a body of college students composed of four seniors, three juniors, two sophomores and one freshman, elected by their respective classes, whose president is the president of the college, and who decides upon all matters that pertain to order or college decorum. Their decision is not valid without the approval of the president; but with his approval it is binding upon the entire college. Gradually the president and faculty have found increasing advantages to give power to this institution. The members chosen by the classes have thus far been remarkably well selected, and their decisions are accepted by the college with singular acquiescence. Any expression of opinion on the part of the senate is sure to carry with it the opinion of the college, and this attempt at self-government has been manifestly attended by an increasing self-respect and manly self-restraint on the part of the students. The good order which prevails at Amherst, the freedom from disturbances of classes and contests of student and faculty are largely due to the college senate.—*N. Y. Mail and Express*.

# The Dalhousie Gazette.

Halifax, N. S., January 10th, 1889.

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NO doubt the Sophomores who intend competing for the Munro Bursaries are already beginning to look forward to the coming summer's work without any very pleasant anticipations, and in our opinion there is just cause for dread. We have always regarded the Second Year as the most difficult of the Course, and now it has become even more so by the addition of Greek History, which, however, is supposed to be counterbalanced by the lengthening of the session. After ending this difficult year, then, it is to be regretted that any student should be compelled

to study just as hard, and perhaps even harder throughout the warm summer months. And yet, in the past, such a result was almost unavoidable, for when the students enjoyed a long vacation of six months it was quite reasonable for the authorities to assign them summer work. Besides, it may have been felt that these Bursaries would prove an attraction to students from other Colleges. But however attractive these may be to those about to enter upon a college course, it is very noticeable that rarely do any but Dalhousians compete at the Senior Examinations. Indeed we do not know of a single instance.

Happily our session has now been lengthened, and as a natural consequence Entrance Examinations discontinued; but the Bursary work, the more grievous of the two, still remains. This too we hope to see abolished ere long, for experience has shown it to be unfavorable to the best interests of Dalhousie students. It is true that most students can accomplish this work without seriously injuring their health, but the fact still remains that when it has been accomplished they are too fatigued to undertake the third year subjects as good students should. The consequence is that the Juniors, having been deprived of their just and necessary vacation, shirk the third year work as long as possible; or if this may seem too strong a statement to any of our sensitive Juniors, we would modify it by saying that there is an almost irresistible temptation to put off the work till "after Xmas." Everyone must see that a scheme that involves such a consequence must of necessity defeat its own aims. But a very simple remedy has long been spoken of. "Why not," says everyone, "have the Bursaries awarded according to the results of the Second Year Sessional Examinations." To us the proposal seems as practicable as the question is reasonable.

That it will make no serious difference in the distribution, anyone will see by comparing the standing of the same students at the two examinations. The only difference that will be occasioned is, we believe, in the right direction. It will be a more general test of the comparative merits of the candidates, and will place the "all around man" in a proper position. Though,

in justice to students who have dropped out for various reasons, no change can be made that will affect any at present in the college, yet looking forward to the welfare and happiness of our successors we would do all in our power to promote such a desirable alteration.

THE numerous friends of Dalhousie will, we are certain, be pleased to learn that we are still receiving additions to our Law Library. Already this session, a large number of valuable books have been received, not only from persons connected with the College and resident in the city, but also from residents of other provinces, and of the United States. On behalf of the Law School we desire to express our thanks to the kind donors for their generous gifts.

The magnificent library of the late Hon. Sir William Young, Dalhousie's kind benefactor, has been placed in position this term. It contains about 2000 volumes, some of them very costly and rare works in the science of Jurisprudence. May the students who use those books strive to follow in the footsteps of the great man who made such good use of the store of legal knowledge which they contain! President Forrest has presented two volumes of the Acts of Prince Edward Island, containing the yearly statutes from 1835 to 1851, and five volumes of the Annual Acts of the same province for the years 1879-80-3-4-5. Dean Weldon has donated the Common's Hansard 1887 (2 vols.), the Senate Hansard 1887, the Common's Hansard 1888 (2 vols.), the Senate Hansard 1888, the Revised Statutes of Canada (2 vols.), the Acts of the Provinces 1887, and the Yearly Canadian Statutes for 1887 and 1888. The third volume of Cartwright's Cases on the B. N. A. Act is the gift of Sir John S. D. Thompson, K. C. M. G., formerly our Lecturer on Evidence, and now Minister of Justice. Robert Sedgewick, Q. C., Deputy Minister of Justice, our late Lecturer on Equity, sends us the Report on Provincial Legislation 1867-84. The Hon. N. C. Moak, of Albany, N. Y., the author of Moak's Underhill on Torts, has given us Gould's Law Catalogue, while Dr. Francis Wharton, of Washington, D. C., the author of a work on Conflict

of Laws, and Commentaries on American Law, has presented us with a copy of his latest work—The International Law Digest, (3 vols.) From Prince Edwards Island we have received from D. A. McKinnon, LL. B., 1887, of Georgetown, four volumes of the Annual Acts of P. E. I., and from A. A. McLean, Esq., of Charlottetown, the Acts of the Third Congress of the United States. We are also indebted to the kindness of H. W. C. Boak, LL. B., 1885, for a copy of the Acts of British Columbia.

There is one unpleasant circumstance to which we are compelled to allude in this connection. We refer to the fact that occasionally books are missing from the Library, without leave. Some were returned, but we are sorry to say that others are not. Such actions are very unfair and unjust to the rest of the students, and we think that if the person who is guilty of such conduct reflects for one moment he will refrain from such actions in future. The Library is open a sufficient time each day to allow a student to do his work, and we doubt not that if sufficient security be given for the return of a book at the earliest period, no one need have any trouble in obtaining it at the time of closing.

EVERY year the students of Dalhousie have a "General Meeting" at which the GAZETTE Editors are appointed. Most of the undergraduates seem to think that when this duty has been performed their responsibility in the GAZETTE is at an end; then they assume the attitude of critics. Friends, criticise if you will, but we want contributions from every student. To arouse any who may be indifferent in the matter we quote the following from the *Cornell Era*:

"No one can deny that a college is, to a large extent, judged by its college press, and this press will have a standard of excellence commensurate with the support it receives. Every class of students, therefore, that forms an integral part of the University, that is benefitted by its good name, owes a support to the press."

## THE NEED OF ENTHUSIASM.

"The futility of enthusiasm, the uselessness of endeavor."—Robert Elsmere.

In the above sentence is drawn the portrait of one of the most powerful and interesting characters in this powerful and interesting book,—Mr. Laugham.

If characters of this kind, that is, those who feel that enthusiasm is futile, were confined to novels, or were even exceptional, no protest against their creed or rather, apathy, were necessary. But I hear someone say:—"Are we forever to be treated to criticisms of Robert Elsmere?" Be not afraid! Reader. This novel has been already the subject of so much criticism,—adverse and favourable, from the pulpit and in the press, that he must needs be a foolhardy man or a genius who expects the public longer to give audience. I aspire to neither character. The truth of Mrs. Ward's religious teachings as given in Robert Elsmere's experience is not the subject of the present paper. It is with the Laugham type of character that I shall deal, and with this only in the most general way. The Laughams of the world are more common than the Elsmeres and more pitiable. Elsmere is noble by nature and transplanting does not stunt his growth. Laugham we pity. Surely it is a sad sight—a human soul shackled by belief in the futility of enthusiasm and the uselessness of endeavor, and in consequence, withering and shrivelling. Is enthusiasm futile? Is endeavor useless? Before attempting an answer to these questions let us briefly survey the trend of thought of the present age.

Its most marked character is that of critical analysis, and this inevitably hinders practical action. This proneness to thought is not necessarily confined to the present age as Shakespeare's immortal conception of Hamlet testifies; but it has assumed larger proportions—has become world-wide. It may be urged as a proof of the practicalness of the present age that never before in the world's history have such achievements been wrought as our scientific men are daily working. This however is a result of this same analyzing. Our searching has only laid bare the

workings of nature, enabled us better to understand the hidden forces of the universe.

I do not wish to be understood to say that no practical work is done (for in such matters no general statement can be made that is not subject to modification) but rather that there are many, on whom "the weight of all this weary, unintelligible world" has fallen too heavily, and is slowly crushing out their life. To such our questions are of vital importance.

The great leaders of ethical and philosophical thought—strong minds, noble hearts—may not rest till they have gone through the swamps of doubt, and have at last found solid footing. To the less highly gifted the road is too difficult, the weight too heavy to bear. They either go back or sink.

The solutions of the problems of life which satisfied our fathers no longer satisfy us. It is vain to say to the doubting one—"You sin in doubting," for this will not satisfy the uneasiness, the hopelessness of the heart. Those who see suffering and sorrow, wrongs and hates, pain and cruelty on all sides, who feel that they indeed live "in a world of the weak, trodden down by the strong," require something else than faith to see it out to the end.

Surely it is but truth that, in many cases, it is those who have the so-called faith that are responsible for the despair of so many of their fellows—the faith that tries to drive instead of lead, for the spirit of intolerance is not yet dead. Let me give one example. In one of the fairest of our cities—a christian city—a few days ago, one christian body sent an old man to prison, where he yet lies, for preaching what to him were the words of eternal life. Is this religion? Is this faith? Ay! the *form* of faith, faith without works. Yet it is faith we want, "faith beyond the forms of faith." And here we reach the answer to our questions, and that answer is, No! Enthusiasm is not futile, for it is faith, and faith begets hope and hope, *love*.

To this analysing to a great extent is due the lack of enthusiasm. Where all seems so dark we ask ourselves what is the use of trying to lighten the gloom. But why speak further of what is patent to all.

It is unnecessary to quote instances to show that all the great moral victories of the world have been achieved by enthusiasm, or faith if you will.

Every one cannot be a leader, and the work done by the more humble individual may be but a drop of water in the ocean, but the result on the worker is infinite. He who betters in any way the condition of another is helped himself, becomes richer, nobler, less earthy, more heavenly. Instead then of waiting for some grand opportunity, or worse still, despairing. Let each one do something to ease the burden of the world. Bring gladness to the heart of some one, even the humblest of God's creatures. Speak even a cheerful word to the sad heart, or even "help" a lame dog over the stile. Throw conventionalism, that curse of our age, to one side. Forget that vile cant about the vanity and undesirableness of this world, even yet heard from so many pulpits, and rather live as though this life were all; for only those who do so are worthy of a heaven. Such lives alone will bring a New Year to the world, and hasten that time when:—

"Light and love shall compass earth's round span;  
Even as the waters fill the hollow sea."

These may be truisms, and may excite laughter, even pity.

I fancy I hear some one say:—"Does he think he is giving us something new?" No reader, I know you have heard it before; but if even in one heart one nobler thought is produced, I shall feel I have accomplished something; and who knows?

H.

## DALHOUSIE NEWS.

The college societies are in a flourishing condition. The Y. M. C. A. meetings were never better attended than during the present session. *Sodales* continues to attract a great number of students. The ladies take part in the debates,

Reports from the various academies throughout the Maritime Provinces lead us to expect a large number of candidates for Junior Exhibitions and Bursaries next September. Judging from the

number in the Sophomore class this session, there is likely to be a very keen Senior competition as well.

The total number of students in the Faculties of Law and Arts is 204. Of these there are now 43 undergraduates in law, one having been added since we published the table.

Our Gymnasium has been much improved lately. New apparatus has been added, and better means has been provided for preserving both new and old.

Nineteen ladies attend Dalhousie's classes this term. Of these seven are undergraduates, one in the first year, 5 in the second and 1 in the third.

Twenty nine volumes of Appleton's Cyclopaedia have been added to the Arts Library lately.

The *Gazette* has presented the Arts Library with Webster's Unabridged.

The additions to the Law Library are too numerous to mention here. A full list will be found in an editorial in this issue.

The janitor spent his spare moments during vacation in furnishing the Gymnasium, and the Arts Library.

Our first foot-ball team played five games during the past season, winning two, losing one, with two draws. The following are the particulars:

Nov. 1st Dalhousie vs. Wanderers, draw. Nov. 13th, Dalhousie vs. Army and Bank, lost by a try and two minor points to *nil*. Nov. 15th, Dalhousie vs. Wanderers, won by a try and three minor points to *nil*. Nov. 16th, Dalhousie vs. New Glasgow, draw, with 8 minor points in Dalhousie's favor. Nov. 20th, Dalhousie vs. Army and Banks, won by one goal, four tries and seven minor points to *nil*.

In OUTING for January Col. Chas. L. Norton contributes an article on a subject about which he is fully entitled to speak with authority—*Fast Ice Yachts: How they are built, rigged and handled*. The paper will be of service both to the expert and layman, and the illustrations and diagrams add greatly to its value.

## COLLEGE WORLD.

Harvard professors are given a year's vacation, with full pay, every seventh year.

Among the 559 women who have graduated from the fourteen leading women's colleges and seminaries in the United States, only 177 are married.

The Empress of Japan has established a college for women, to be superintended by a committee of foreign ladies. Two of them are American, two English, and the other two, French and German respectively.

Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), has received the degree of Master of Arts, from Yale University.

When the Freshman defeated the Sophomores at foot-ball, they became so elated that they passed resolutions, on the grounds, to carry canes to college on the following Monday. When however, they went home, and reflected calmly on their intention, their courage began to weaken, and when Monday came there was nothing to disturb the Sophomore tranquility except the foot-ball defeat.—*Columbia Spectator*.

Of the 1,400 students in Michigan State University, President Angell states that the parents of 502 were farmers; 271, merchants; 93, lawyers; 83, physicians; 52, manufacturers; 12, mechanics; 61, clergymen, and the 45 per cent. belong to the class who gain their living by manual labor.

The oldest college periodical and the oldest monthly of any kind in America, is the *Yale Literary Magazine*. Wm. M. Evarts was one of the first students who started it fifty years ago.

Wellesley College has refused many students from lack of room. The attendance now is over 700. Smith College has 450 names on its register. At Cornell there are over 1,200 students.

A Woman's College, corresponding in standard to John Hopkins, was formally opened recently at Baltimore, Md.

Lectures in Volapuk are now delivered at Yale, which is the first American College to add this language to its curriculum.

William and Mary College, one of the oldest colleges in the States, and the Alma Mater of many distinguished Americans, was re-opened this fall after a long period of cessation. It was severely crippled by the war between North and South.

Two-thirds of the students of Washington and Lee University in the Southern States belong to the Y. M. C. A.

The Senior foot-ball team of Upper Canada College, played 8 games, winning 4, losing 3, with one draw in their favor. The Junior team of the same college played and won 4 games.

The Juniors of Columbia defeated the Seniors in a game of foot-ball, and the Freshmen defeated the Sophomores.

Ohio State University has a battalion of four companies, with an artillery, detail, and signal corps. The Undergraduates are consequently advocating the building of a drill shed and armory.

John Guy Vassar, the last of the Vassar brothers, died at his home in Poughkeepsie, on Oct. 27th 1888, leaving an estate valued at \$2,000,000. Having no lineal heirs, he desired to dispose of his property so as to do most good, and to that end left much of it to religious and charitable institutions. To Vassar College he bequeathed \$80,000, to endow chairs of Natural History and Modern Languages; \$20,000 to form an "Art Fund," and \$20,000 as a "Music Fund," besides \$10,000 for the Laboratory, which had already been heavily endowed by the Vassar brothers.

At Cambridge University, England, a debate was held by the undergraduates on the subject, "Who wrote Shakespeare's plays?" Many students would not vote, but of 231 who did, 101 voted for Bacon, and 130 for Shakespeare.

The *Mail and Express* of New York has been enquiring into the average annual expenses of the students at the principal colleges of the United States. The figures are supposed to include tuition, books, clothing and such other expenses as are necessary to maintain the students' respectability in class and college. The lowest extreme is given in the following figures:—Harvard leads the list at \$800; then comes Yale, at \$750; Rensselaer Polytechnic, \$650; Columbia, \$540-600; Tufts, \$500; Brown, \$500; Princeton, \$450-500; Williams, \$450-500; University of Pennsylvania, \$450; University of California, \$450; Michigan University, \$400; College of the City of New York, (tuition free) \$400; Vassar, \$400; Smith, \$350-400; Boston University, \$375; Wellesley, \$350; Bowdoin, \$350; Bates, \$300; Colby, \$250-300.

## OUR TABLE.

The *Kings College Record* was printed for the first time at Windsor in October. The *Record* is a highly creditable representative of College journalism.

The December number is full of interesting reading matter. The second and third of a series of articles on Canadian Poets by Prof. Roberts will repay a careful perusal. A "Trip Round Blomidon," and a "Modern School in Philosophy" are interesting articles from the R. B. C. collection. A short editorial on "Canadianism in our Universities," is characterized by sentiments which should be fostered by all Canadian Universities.

The December number of the *Acadia Athenæum* is before us, and as usual is full of interesting reading matter. We see that the college authorities and the students are considering the advisability of introducing the Y. M. C. A. among the students. There are difficulties in the way, which, of course at this distance we cannot understand, but if they can possibly be overcome, our

advice is, by all means let it be introduced. For a number of years we have had such a society in *Dalhousie*, and it is by far the most popular and best attended of our college societies. It throws an influence for good around young men, who have left their homes for the first time, and fosters a religious spirit in the college, that has a salutary effect upon the whole institution. Friends of Acadia, it is not ours to advise, but we venture to say that, if local difficulties can be overcome, and a society started, you will never have cause to regret it.

The Xmas number of the *Argosy* did not reach our table and consequently we are not in a position to comment upon it to any extent. However we caught sight of one in the hands of a friend, and if the contents are to be judged by the beauty and neatness of the cover, which was specially designed for that number, its readers have had a treat. If the Financial Editor has a spare number for us we promise to give it the most honorable position in our reading room.

Space will not allow us to receive all our college exchanges. All the following are welcome visitors:—*The University Monthly*, *The Beacon*, *Columbia Spectator*, *Presbyterian College Journal*, *Pennsylvanian*, *University Gazette*, *Harvard Advocate*, *Trinity University Review*, *Chironian*, *The Student*, *Merchistonian*, *College Times*, *Queens College Journal*, *Harvard Lampoon*, *Acta Victoriana*, *Niagara Index*, *The Oensor*, *The Sunbeam*. Among other publications the following have reached us. *The Short Hand Writer*, *The Phonographic Magazine*, *The Critic*, *The Educational Review*, *Philosophy of Nature*, *Massey's Illustrated*.

It has been the rule at Cornell to allow only the students who had studied Elocution at the University, to speak on the commencement stage. The other day, however, the faculty repealed the order, and now the valedictorians are only restricted to those who can give proof of "satisfactory oratorical ability."



## PERSONALS.

H. Dickie, B. A., '83, after polishing off a Theological course at Princeton by a year at Edinburgh, and another at Berlin, has returned to his native land. The tight little island now holds him, as we see by a recent paper that he has been inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Summerside. The boys of five or six years ago will all remember the interesting minutes that Dickie, when Sec'y of the General Students' meeting, used to write. If he makes his sermons as interesting as his minutes the present writer should like to sit at his feet. He has our warmest good wishes for success in his new line of work.

W. M. Tuffts, B. A., '85, has recently been settled over the Presbyterian Congregation in Bedeque, P. E. I. Tuffts completed his theological course at Princeton, from which University, unless we are misinformed, he obtained the higher Arts degree. From so successful a student as Tuffts was, we look for great things in his life work.

Ives, L. L. B., '85, is, we are glad to be able to report, slowly recovering from a tedious illness that forced him to give up work. He is now at his home in Pictou, but in a month or so hopes to resume his place at his desk. We trust he may do so. Meantime he has our best wishes.

R. R. J. Emmerson, B. A., '79, one of whose poems we published last issue, has a very pleasant story entitled, "Christmas at Fernview," in the *Montreal Witness*. We are pleased to see that his health permits him to write so much.

E. McKay, B. A., '86, the Principal of the New Glasgow High School, is doing splendid work in that rising town. The authorities have just provided him with a conveniently arranged and well stocked laboratory, where Eben and his boys can dabble in science to their hearts content. At present writing, McKay is taking a holiday jaunt to New York and other villages of the Eastern States. While in New York he would be in good hands, but since he left there—"Oh where is my wandering boy."

"We are glad to learn from friends in New Westminster, B. C., of the success of Dr. I. M. Maclean, son of the Rev. A. Maclean of Hopewell. Dr. Maclean is fast rising in his profession, and to-day he occupies a leading place among the medical fraternity in his adopted city in the far West, where, as in other places Pictonians are not far behind in the race."—*Standard Pictou*.

The Dr. Maclean referred to in the above clipping is I. M. Maclean who graduated in 1879 with honors in Classics. We are exceedingly well pleased to hear that he is keeping up the reputation of his Alma Mater on the Pacific slope.

James Forrest, M. A., '72, has just returned to Nova Scotia, from a three months trip to Vetera Scotia. We trust he has come back to us with health completely restored. We know he must have enjoyed his visit to the home of his ancestors.

T. J. Carter, L. L. B., '87, is now practising at Hartland, Carleton Co., N. B. We understand he is meeting with great success, and building up quite a practise. We hope to have some effusions from his pen in an early number of the GAZETTE.

Hanright, L. L. B. '87, has opened a law office in this city. Tho' Halifax has its quota of lawyers, there is always room for a good one such as we expect Hanright to make.

T. S. McGregor, B. A., '83, after sojourning for a time in Uncle Sams territory, has returned to his home at Little Bras d'Or, C. B. He has gone into business there, and by latest accounts we hear, he is scooping in the ducats at an alarming rate. Tom was a worthy fellow and we wish him unlimited success.

We see that E. M. McDonald, L.L.B., '87, is writing on "The secret of success in life" for the *New Glasgow Enterprise*. Ned has evidently learned the secret, for we are credibly informed that his practice is increasing very rapidly. We congratulate him most heartily.

From the Vancouver, (B. C.) *Weekly World* of the 20th ult., we clip the following item which we think will be of interest to many of our readers:

"E. A. Magee, of Halifax, N. S., arrived in Vancouver yesterday, where he intends to practice his profession, the law. Mr. Magee was educated at Acadia College, and received the degree of L.L. B. from Dalhousie University. He is a young man of promise and is very favorably impressed with Vancouver and its future prospects. He is just the stamp of men now wanted in this Province. He reports that a large number of young men intend removing from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard. They will be warmly welcomed here, where there is room and to spare for them all."

E. H. Armstrong, L.L.B., '87, the "plucky Armstrong," of foot-ball circles, has been admitted to the bar. He has opened an office in Weymouth, where, unless reports are astray, he is meeting with much success. "Forward gallant heart as thou wert wont."

## Dallusiensia.

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

The big fat junior from the Island is said to be almost like a brother to his namesake from the same place.

The fog in Yarmouth is said to be so dense that all the dudes have to wear glasses to see their best girls.

Many think that in our item about the *pendulum* in a former issue, the word "oscillations" was a misprint for "osculations."

The twenty-five cent cane was not taken to the Island during vacation. The verdant Soph, expected to have something else to carry under his arm.

We would like to know,—

Why the dark-eyed sentimental Soph, remained in the city till Sat. morning.

And why he got off the train at Shubenacadie.

Why *Le Jardinier* allowed the "blue cold gleaming steel" to rob his upper lip of its down.

How many were engaged in writing that College Prospectus.

Who always says, "well Mr.— she's an awfully nice girl."

What has become of some of the students' registration tickets.

The tall semi-theologue seems a little hurt by the College Prospectus. We never knew he had such a failing for the ladies, and it was a little hard to have it thus publicly announced. Another youth was also offended but a timely apology won him over again. Oh *Rats*, such folly!

We take this opportunity to remind a certain law student, that it is not considered proper for a gentleman, when going shopping with a young lady, to monopolize her muff.

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After our Xmas racket a company of Freshmen, who board somewhere on Pleasant St., attempted to interpret the chorus "Kemo Kimo." After searching their Latin, French, German and Greek Dictionaries, they applied to Webster, but not even he nor the keen glance of another of the benighted ones could solve it. As a last resort they inquired of two other Freshmen, who lived around the corner, but not even the wisdom of Bacon nor the profundity of his companion Bottom could explain the difficulty.

The young ladies of the Ladies' College have written asking us not to allow the Medicals to obtain a certain freshman, as they take a great interest in his welfare.

The Freshie who endeavoured to follow the example of his name-sake the Grand Duke, was not as successful; it is said his attentions were "nipped in the bud."

It is whispered that that beaming countenance which has continually distinguished our gay young Junior who makes his periodical visits to New Glasgow, is occasioned by the prospect of a scene which will be accompanied by the pealing of bells and scattering of rice.

A Sophomore, stuffing for examination, has developed the ethics of Sunday work in a way to render further elucidation on the subject unnecessary. He reasons that if a man is justified in trying to help the ass from the pit on the Sabbath day, much more would the ass be justified in trying to get out himself. — *Ex.*

We understand the Law freshie has recovered from his attack of heart disease, and was able to resume his duties last Sunday evening.

Our little dark-eyed New Glasgow Freshie, brother Tom's son, spent a large sum of money recently on Xmas cards. We understand that not one of his lady acquaintances was overlooked in the distribution.

We hear that a *calm belle* on Tower Road was largely influential in detaining one of our young juniors in Halifax for several days after college closed. Poor fellow! has it come to this?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Miss L. M. Scott, John P. Falconer, Reading Room, House of Commons, Ottawa; John Hood, D. F. Campbell, W. R. Campbell, Jas. G. Fraser, Jas. W. Brehaut, \$1.00 each.

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All the competitors of the Winter Session of 1899 to—

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The Exhibitions and Bursaries are open to all candidates for admission on the Calendar.

WORDS OF RECOMMENDATION For Junior Exhibitions and Bursaries 1899-00.

Latin.—Caesar, Belli War, Books II and III, and Pliny, Aeneid, Books I, VI, and X. Greek.—Prose, Selection of Hexameter Verse. "The Iliad," Book II, Latin Grammar.—Composition. Essay on the subject to be prescribed by the Latin Prose. "Paul Rudin," Smith's Principles of Latin, Part IV, §§ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30.

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