

*L. G. Macneil*

# DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

ORA ET LABORA.

Vol. IV.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 10, 1872.

No. 7.

For the "Dalhousie Gazette."

## THE TALKING ZEPHYR.

LEUMAS.

Hark! the evening Zephyr's stealing  
Its airy way into the bower;  
List! its breezy hand is feeling  
For the fairest sweetest flower.

Zephyr:—tell me why thou'rt creeping  
So softly 'mong the tiny flowers;  
Why, when other winds are sleeping,  
Dost thou seek these garden bowers?

"I have come," replied the Zephyr,  
"To fan the flow'rets lest they fade;—  
Come for balm to breathe, as ever,  
On some toil-worn aching head.

"I have come, too, as a vesper,  
Breathing sweetness in my song;—  
Come to tell thee in a whisper,—  
'Th' eve of life will come ere long.'

"Balmy is my breath at even,  
Yet it sighs for parting day,  
Weeping dew-tears like a pilgrim  
Saddened by the sun's last ray.

"Therefore, hear my whisp'rings, mortals,  
Haste to speed you on your way;  
Linger not lest Heaven's portals  
Close against you while you stay."

Welcome balmy whispering "Zephyr;"  
Welcome spirit-voice of even;  
Welcome dewy-breath that ever  
Wafts the soul in thought to Heaven.

I would learn of thee, sweet Zephyr,  
To gather balm for aching hearts;  
I would say to mortals ever,  
'Time is fleeting—life departs.'

## PRIDAL DEVELOPMENT.

Let not the moral satirist think that we intend mounting his well ridden hobby to make a raid on silks and broad-cloths, shoe-buckles and ostrich-feathers, the universal hempen pile that adds so much to the glory of womanhood, and the redoubtable Glengarry that clings so tenaciously to one ear; let all such carping at the "fashionable follies" of the day be left to surly bachelors and peevish old maids, who are out of fashion themselves and through the distorted spectacles of an envious temper, see nothing but sour grapes all around them.

Far more contemptible is that, which for want of a better

name, we shall call—*Literary Snobbery*—which flaunts abroad its gaudy drapery to hide the most pitiable ignorance.

There is the *know-nothing* who endeavours to impress a sense of his profound learning, by never venturing an opinion on anything. He invariably looks wondrous wise. The deeper the subject of conversation the deeper his abstraction. If science or philosophy be discussed he is apparently holding communion with the spirits of Newton, Bacon, or Locke, of whose works he is as ignorant as were Noah's carpenters or the bricklayers at the Tower of Babel. He instinctively finds the intellectual "knot" of a company, and sits with grave mien, varying his expressions by an occasional approving nod or disapproving shake of his cranial shell, and appreciating the conversation quite as highly as would an Esquimaux the beauties of Demosthenes in the original, or a monkey the hair splitting theories of Metaphysicians.

Another member of the same family is the *know-something*, who has picked up a few thread-bare ideas from some intellectual rag-basket, and these he flourishes with untiring vigour, raising a dust to conceal his real ignorance. So long as his "Polly want a cracker" song will fit into the subject of discussion, so long is his voice the loudest and most frequently heard. If perchance, the conversation turn on any other than his favorite theme, his sensitive politeness suddenly reminds him that it would not be good manners for him to be talking all the time, so he graciously denies himself the pleasure of saying anything on the subject. If appealed to for a decision, he gravely strokes his beard, (if he has one) and condescendingly remarks that there are weighty arguments on both sides of the question, he has scarcely made up his mind on the subject, but will carefully weigh the matter. If unable to avoid speaking on matters with which he feigns familiarity, he confines himself to grunting a monosyllabic assent to everything that may require an answer, or, as if such things are not worthy his attention, with consequential look and dignified step he walks off, meditating on the relations of side-walk and sole-leather.

Another class does not choose so high a ground of operation. The centre of a circle whose only fault is ignorance and good sense enough to know it, a noisy ignoramus palms off plated jewelry on his gaping auditors who are in blissful innocence of the distinction between gold and kettle brass. Where there is no danger of his statements being falsified, where all must be taken at his word, this pedantic snob likes to display his well-thumbed stock of lore. No higher ambition has he than to be the nucleus of an open-mouthed crowd, who wonderingly listen to his oracles.

"And still they gaze and still the wonder grows  
That one small head can carry all he knows."

Next in order comes the fashionable poetic fop, who to create and maintain a literary reputation among the intellectual fair, manages to wedge in through the sutures of his casemated skull, a few sentimental lines from "Locksley Hall" or the "May Queen," and a verse from the only Psalm with which he is guilty of any acquaintance, and these

he rhymes off on every possible occasion in tunes that would make Orpheus unstring his discordant lyre and hang it on a bush to wail tuneless music to the winds. He goes into raptures over the beauties of poetry; endorses with knowing emphasis all the opinions expressed by his fair companions with regard to the merits or demerits of various authors; praises extravagantly what they commend; and denounces in unmeasured terms what they disapprove. Longfellow, Wordsworth, and Tennyson; Milton and Cowper and Pope; Byron and Burns; Shelley and Scott, are tumbled from mouth to mouth till the corners are worn off their names, by those who are as well acquainted with poetry as a mermaid with millinery, or a Hottentot with "Harper's Magazine."

None so pitifully contemptible as he who has obtained an education without learning his own ignorance, who is ever stalking his pedantry before the world and does not know it, whose training has failed to supply the common sense which Nature unfortunately neglected to bestow, who has a fair education but has not mental conceptions sufficiently acute to see the ignorance and stupidity that still claims kin with him. In the house and by the way persevering as a news-boy blows "Halifax Reporter," they are ever trumpeting their own praise. "I" and "my doings," forms the never failing subject of conversation, and the slighted "weather" has to retire in confusion and take refuge among those whose bump of egotism is less fully developed.

The more varied and extensive a man's knowledge, the more does he feel his own ignorance. He who climbs highest the steep of learning, but gains a more extended view of the vast unknown compared with which his actual knowledge grows gradually less, and the man who can complacently flatter himself on the extent of his attainments, and his mighty grasp of genius, may take comfort in the reflection that the cause is not in the extent of his knowledge but in the narrowness of the horizon that bounds his intellectual vision. Like the mouse he fondly imagines that his little till is all the world, and swells with the idea of his own importance till he gets a peep over the edge into the mighty chest beyond.

The immortal Newton picked up a few pebbles from the shore of that mighty ocean of unfathomed truth that lay beyond his ken. If the poor old man were to revisit the earth in these last days, he would have to hide his diminished head for shame and beat a hasty retreat to the shades, at the sight of some shallow brained pedants of the nineteenth century, calmly sailing over that ocean, with a double woven screen of ignorance and impudence to protect them from the rays of the sun of knowledge, and a ten horse propeller of self conceit driving them at random on their trackless way.

#### HISTORY OF A TOAD.

FAR, far back in the dim ages of obscurity, in a certain place which shall be nameless, there lived an old toad. And who more happy than he? Safe from foes in a comfortable abode, formed by the roots of a large oak, rejoicing in a family of three, and at peace with the world in general, he was the very picture of contentment and happiness. But alas! though for a long time things went on smoothly and harmoniously, the wilfulness and irrepressible curiosity of one of the toads junior, brought disaster and wretchedness into the peaceful abode. For one day as the parent was setting out on his daily excursion round the tree in search of worms and grubs, the youngest of the family pleaded to be allowed to accompany him. But the old toad was too well acquainted with the heedlessness of youth and the dangers of the outside world to grant this request, and he left with a parting injunction and parental warning to all his offspring to stay within doors. Happy for them had this advice been followed! But no!

youth is too headstrong and young blood too hot to be refused anything upon which the heart has been set; and a brief interval after the departure of the old toad, found the young one also in the open air. Intoxicated with delight at the wonders which he saw, for full five minutes he stood immovable, then with a croak of joy he bounded towards a beautiful flower a short distance off. But no sooner had he reached this, than a glittering object close by excited his curiosity and admiration; and one short leap sufficed to land him fairly upon it, alas! misguided toad! thou hast leapt into the very jaws of danger!—The glittering object was nothing less than a snake; one of those dreadful reptiles about which his father—whose advice would that he had followed!—had told so many fearful tales. But too late was it now for reflection, and too late for repentance. Opening its terrible jaws, the monster caught between its piercing teeth our unhappy hero; one slight effort, and he is swal—no! a rustling noise is heard behind; instinctively the snake knows that it indicates the presence of a serpent of a still larger species; and, still retaining the prize in its distended mouth, it seeks refuge in a tree; for it can climb excellently, whereas the last comer cannot do so at all. And thus the toad, in agony from remorse, terror, and pain, is conveyed up an old pine.—And before we go any further, let me describe the appearance of this pine. Once tall, once young, once verdant, it was now old and withered, and, having been once struck by lightning, completely broken in two; it possessed not even a leaf to offer a contrast to the moss-covered bark; decayed and entirely hollow, it looked as if the first blast would lay it prostrate. Up this tree then hurried the snake; and when it reached what now formed its top, the trunk having been there severed by lightning, it prepared to swallow the prize. But ah! there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, and how soon the victor may become a victim, no one can say: at this very moment a wild screech is heard, and with indescribable rapidity there rushes on the scene a huge eagle; one swoop, and the serpent is in his talons! At this critical moment the snake's head, and consequently the contained toad, is directly above the hole which descends from the top to the bottom of the old hollow trunk; and now, when attacked by the eagle, the serpent's jaws open, and, stunned and senseless, the toad falls inside to the bottom. There, whilst a terrible struggle was going on overhead betwixt the scaly reptile and the monarch of the air, he lay insensible; nor did he revive until a few drops of the blood of the conquered and dying serpent fell on his head. Then he recovered consciousness, only, to all appearance, to die a lingering death. But wonderful to relate! day after day rolled on, and still he lived: totally deprived of food, and all but excluded from light and air, he still existed!

And now from the dark ages of the past, we must come to the bright ones of the present; and from a certain place where dwelt a certain toad, pass to a mine in a coal district. Car-loads of this valuable mineral are being daily extracted and daily shipped off to less favoured countries. See, this last car-load has brought up an immense lump; so huge is it, that it must be broken before it can be of any use. And in order to do this, one of the miners, with pick and crow-bar approaches. Another joins him, and both set themselves to the task; force is increased by force, and blow succeeds blow, until the shining block with a sudden crack splits up, and lo! out from the centre of the mass leaps, vigorous and unhurt, a toad! Marvellous prodigy! for generations has our hero, for such in truth he is, been imprisoned in this coaly bed without food, air, or light, and he is still alive and active!

The history of our toad, from the time when we left him inside the hollow tree, until he emerged from a lump of coal, may be given in a few words; though of course the circumstance of his living at all in such a situation is beyond human ken.—The tree fell; a river hard by, overflowing its banks,

carried it down, together with a number of others, to one common deposit; here, with a heterogeneous mixture of all sorts of vegetable products, during the lapse of centuries it changed its nature, through fixed and universal laws, to a mineral substance; man then came upon the scene, and by investigating and exploring, discovered this rich mine, in which probably the only living thing was the toad whose history I have been writing.

### A TRIP TO PETERSBURG.

We sailed from a port on the western coast of England at the end of the month of June, and our voyage in the English Channel, across the North Sea, through the Skager Rack, down the Cattegat, up the Baltic, and along the Gulf of Finland, until we reached the mouth of the Neva, was a most pleasant one; so pleasant indeed, that to give an interesting account of it would require the descriptive powers of a Washington Irving. We had no gales, no raging storms, better still, we had no tantalizing calms, and were never for more than a few hours at one time out of the sight of land. The monotony which usually accompanies a sea voyage was to a great extent relieved by the different phases which each new country that we saw presented to us. We had not long lost sight of the Dover cliffs before the high land on the western coast of Denmark became visible, and having been driven northward by a southerly wind we were able to catch a faint glimpse of the nearest Norwegian headland, just enough to enable us to say that we had seen the land so famous for its ocean kings in times that have gone by.

We had the good fortune to pass through the Sound in daylight. This was the most interesting part of our voyage. Until we had reached within a very short distance of the Strait which affords an entrance from the Cattegat to the Baltic, we were unable to tell which course was the proper one to take because we appeared to be equally hemmed in by land on every side, but soon a narrow opening presented itself, which proved upon closer observation to be less than two miles wide, and had we not been favoured by a fair wind we should not have been able—on account of the narrowness of the passage—to have made our way through, for the reader must know that we were in a sailing vessel. The view was perfectly delightful. On the western side were to be seen the high granite hills of the Swedish coast, while on the Danish side the land was low, rising in a very slight incline from the sea, covered with most luxuriant corn fields, and studded here and there with large, neat, and comfortable-looking farm houses, each tastefully surrounded by a thick grove of pines. And here we must confess a rather unpatriotic feeling, for although we had seen some farms in Nova Scotia which are considered excellent, and had passed through the most beautiful and fertile fields of which Great Britain boasts, we were never before so strongly seized with the desire of leading an agricultural life as when looking upon the picturesque and arable lands tilled by the Danish peasant in the vicinity of Elsinore.

As we pass through the Sound and enter the Baltic sea, another scene presents itself. On the right bank we have a near and full view of the pretty little town of Elsinore, whose name is so familiar to our readers' ears; while on the

Swedish side and at a distance of seven miles we can distinguish the sails of the numerous windmills which are to be seen all along the coast, with a church steeple here and there rising from among a little cluster of houses indicating the situation of a Scandinavian village. Before us are countless multitudes of vessels of various sizes, and at various distances—thanks to the superior speed of our barque, we were able in a very short space of time to overtake those going in the same direction with ourselves, and to come up quickly with those which we met. All the while we perceived fantastically rigged little skiffs and pilot boats darting out from the shore on either side, and passing over the water with almost miraculous speed.

We have omitted to mention the castle of Elsinore, which is situated on the point of land projecting from the Danish coast at the narrowest part of the Sound. Our omission was intentional for the space allowed us is not sufficient for even a partial description of the elaborate architecture and antique style of that time-honored and once impregnable fortress. Besides, in order to do it justice it would be necessary to lead our readers back to the time of Hamlet, and to quote much more of Shakespeare's play than we can now remember.

Our sail up the Gulf of Finland, although, perhaps, the most monotonous part of our voyage, was by no means the least pleasant; partly no doubt from the fact that we were anticipating an early arrival in a foreign country, but chiefly on account of the delightful weather which we enjoyed. We experienced at that time the longest days we had ever known, but only long in point of time and not because they were wearisome. There was no night there. A short period of twilight, it is true, between the hour of midnight and two o'clock next morning, served to divide one day from another; but, during the whole of our visit to northern Russia, which lasted until the middle of August, we can safely say that we experienced no more darkness than is seen in Nova Scotia on fine, clear, frosty moonlight nights when the ground is covered with snow.

We arrived at Cronstadt on the 15th (or as the Russians would say, on the 3rd) of July, after a passage of 20 days, half of which had been spent in the English Channel. The impressions we had already formed of the country we were about to visit, were not very encouraging; for as we approached nearer the mouth of the Neva and were better able to distinguish the appearance of the coast on either side we found that the land was flat and unattractive, and possessed few evidences of habitation—but these forebodings which were just beginning to take possession of our minds were soon dissipated by the contrast presented by the rush and (Russian) bustle which greeted us upon our first glimpse of Cronstadt. Any attempt at a description of the massive fortifications for which that city is famous could convey but little idea to the reader of their grand and imposing appearance. Suffice it to say that even we who had little idea of the destruction which can be produced by a well-directed volley from 8 or 10 powerful cannon (not to speak of as many hundreds), experienced a feeling of profound relief when we had passed beyond the range of the guns placed in tiers upon the two sentinel-like fortresses which are situated at a distance of about 1000 yards apart, one being built on each side of the channel of the Neva, about half a mile from the town of Cronstadt.

We have now succeeded—however imperfectly—in bringing our readers face to face with the massive and extensive fortifications which protect the capital of all the Russias. We shall attempt to make our next article more interesting by relating some of the sights which we managed to see during our visit to the city of Petersburg, and our impressions of the people with whom we came in contact.

ALEXIS.

# Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 10, 1872.

## EDITORS.

D. C. FRASER, '72, E. SCOTT, '72,  
W. P. ARCHIBALD, '72, A. H. MCKAY, '73,  
JAMES C. HERDMAN, '74.

## MANAGING COMMITTEE.

J. M. CARMICHAEL, '72, D. S. FRASER, '74,  
A. I. TRUEMAN, '72 *Secretary*.

## CONTENTS.

The Talking Zephyr. - - - - -	49
Pridal Development. - - - - -	49
History of a Toad. - - - - -	50
A Trip to Petersburg. - - - - -	51
Editorial - - - - -	52
The Introduction of Silk into Europe. - - - - -	53
Notices of Exchanges, &c. - - - - -	53
Correspondence. - - - - -	54
College Notes. - - - - -	54
Dallusiansia. - - - - -	55
Scientific Items. - - - - -	55

THE "Women's Rights" question, if it were ever entertained by any but a few addle-headed females, has now given place to one far more practical and worthy of consideration, viz., the character and method of the Higher Education necessary for the fair sex. This question has been brought to the notice of educationists, as well by the action of the ladies themselves, as by the general progress and diffusion of learning. Women feel that in these days, when colleges exist in every section of the country, something more than a common-school education, or even a knowledge of drawing and calisthenics, is necessary to place them on an equality with the stronger sex. They are accordingly seeking eagerly to obtain the higher education. Sisters, who were wont, in former times, to wonder at their brothers who came home from the Universities, reciting Latin Hexameters by the hour, and talking in misty vague language of the problems of Philosophy, are now plunging into these same subjects. Whether the higher education is necessary for woman, would be an absurd question now. Her intellect, and her place and influence in society, alike proclaim her right to receive instruction in the higher branches of knowledge, and man could only prevent her from obtaining this instruction by the barbarous exercise of his superior physical force. The questions to be discussed are: Which of the higher branches of study are *most* necessary for woman, and most congenial to her tastes and intellect? and shall these studies be pursued in separate colleges, or in conjunction with men in existing Universities? These difficult problems are commanding the attention of thinking men everywhere, and movements are in operation to endeavour to give a practical solution to them. A Women's Educational Association has lately been formed in Boston for the purpose of promoting the discussion of these subjects, and initiating reform. A meeting has been held under their auspices, at which addresses were delivered by several eminent men. The Rev.

Dr. Hedge was among the speakers, and in answering the questions to which we have alluded, spoke as follows:—

"The studies to be pursued in the education of women, whereby the highest education is intended, may be classed under three heads: those which should be required of all, those which should be left optional, but recommended to all, and those requiring a special vocation, and for which opportunity should be afforded where such aptitude exists. Under the first head I include, next to rudiments of reading, writing, drawing, reckoning, history, geography, the outlines of astronomy, physiology, the rudiments of anatomy, the history of English literature, one or two modern languages, say French and German, studied orally and scriptorially. The studies to be recommended are botany, zoology, chemistry, geognosy, ethnology, political science, the history of literatures other than English, particularly modern literatures, Latin studied grammatically, and perhaps Italian and Spanish. Under the head of studies requiring a special vocation I reckon the science of language, Greek and the oriental languages, archaeology, psychology, speculative philosophy, the higher mathematics and their applications to physical science. In the class of studies to be recommended I have named chemistry and natural history. For both of these studies the female mind possesses peculiar aptitudes. The faculty of observation is more readily developed in women than in men, and they possess in a greater degree the genius of manipulation. \* \*

"As to the question of promiscuous education of the sexes, the question, 'Shall the highest education of women be attempted in men's colleges?' I am not, as I said, prepared to speak from the fixed conviction which experience only can warrant. I incline to the view that our Universities should be thrown open to women so far as the studies pursued in them are elective; that women should have the privilege of attendance on such courses of lectures as they may choose to hear, that they should be allowed to offer themselves for examination in the studies they have pursued and receive degrees, if the examination has proved them competent, on the same terms on which these degrees are awarded to the other sex. They should not, however, be admissible to any of the college courses, excepting those known as 'university lectures,' to which they have already been invited, without formal matriculation based on approval by examination as rigorous as that required of boys who offer themselves as candidates for admission to the college. For the sake of both sexes the rigor of requirement should be as great for the one as for the other."

President White, of Cornell University, who has lately been visiting the Universities of the Western States, where the co-education of the sexes has been extensively tried, gave an account of their system, and recommends its adoption. The result of his visit goes to show that in many departments women are capable of doing as good work as men. He reports that a prize for the solution of problems in the higher mathematics, offered by Prof. Wood of Michigan University, which has not been gained for several years, was this year obtained by a woman; and that in the department of Botany especially, women excel the men, as shown by a schedule of class-work kept by Prof. Winchell, of the same University. These facts show in some degree the intellectual capabilities of woman; while on the other hand, President White affirms that no scandal has as yet arisen in those colleges where the sexes are educated together. However, the experiment is not yet fully tried, and it would be premature and visionary to indulge in any prophecies concerning the future of woman's education.

## THE INTRODUCTION OF SILK INTO EUROPE.

At the present day we find that silk is extensively used in almost every part of the world. Though it is such an important article of commerce and worn by so many, yet we doubt not that comparatively little is known of its history, or of the interesting account connected with its introduction into Europe.

The Chinese possessed the art of silk-making at a very early period in the world's history. They were very anxious to keep it a secret, and succeeded in doing so for a great length of time. China was anciently called *Ceres*, and from this came the Latin word *Sericum*, whence the English *Silk*. Thus we see that even the very name by which it is known amongst us is indirectly derived from the Chinese.

It is said that the manufacture of silk was first carried on by St. Ling, wife of the Emperor of Hoang Ti, as early as the year 2600 B. C.

Of the different species of silkworm, that which feeds upon the mulberry leaf weaves a web of much better quality than any other, and was first brought into Europe in the reign of Justinian. Some inferior species were known in Western Asia and Eastern Europe previous to this date, but no one attempted to make use of them, until Pamphila, a woman of Cos, an island lying off the west coast of Caria, made a thin gauze which was much admired. The silk then manufactured soon became an article of export. At the same time small quantities were brought from China, but the difficulties connected with such a long overland route rendered the cost so exorbitant that the Romans were obliged to use the *Cosesin* fabric, though much inferior, and of a very limited supply.

The first writer that made mention of silk was Virgil, who spoke of it as "soft wool combed from the limbs of trees" in *Ceres*.

Many years before the time of Justinian Caravans crossed from the Chinese shores to the coast of Tyre in about two hundred and forty-three days, and brought a considerable quantity of silk. The Romans, too, carried on direct trade with China through the district of Armenia, but this was interrupted by a war between the monarchs of Persia and Constantinople. It was, however, resumed, but again had to be given up on account of the repeated attacks of the predatory hordes of barbarous Huns and Turks.

The Russian overland trade, is, even at the present day, much endangered by those plunder-seeking tribes.

In the time of Justinian silk had become an indispensable article, and the trade, then quite extensive, had fallen entirely into the hands of the Persians. The Emperor, seeing his country drained of her wealth by those who were enemies and rivals, began to look upon them with jealous eye. In hope of opening up a trade with Eastern Asia by the Red sea, he solicited the aid of the Abyssinians and Ethiopians. They, however, were unwilling to enter into competition with the Persians, and consequently the project failed.

About this time a very opportune circumstance occurred. Two Roman monks, who were missionaries to the Chinese Empire, returning to Constantinople, and hearing of Justinian's efforts to obtain silk at a cheaper rate, suggested to him the practicability of cultivating the worm, and of preparing the silk in his own capital. They also explained the process of manufacture in China, and then offered to use their endeavors to secure the worms for him. Encouraged by liberal gifts and fair promises they returned under the pretence of resuming their missionary labors, and stealthily secured a number of the insects, and started home. It was, however, found impossible to convey such a short-lived creature so far.

This attempt proving a failure they determined to experiment with the eggs of the worm, and again they outwitted the Chinese by carrying off, in a hollow cane, a number of these. This ingenious stratagem proved successful. On arriving at Constantinople the eggs were carefully hatched by artificial heat; the worms were fed on mulberry leaves, cultivated for the purpose; they were fostered with great care until they had increased to a great number, and then the manufacture of silk began in Europe about 530 A. D. In a short time an article was produced in every way equal to that brought from the East.

The citizens of the Roman capital were now anxious to keep this a secret, and guarded it as carefully as the Chinese had, for so long a time done. Their revenue was greatly increased by this monopoly, which they enjoyed for nearly six hundred years.

The Saracens were the first to obtain a knowledge of the art, and made it known in Spain. A man named Rojee introduced it into Sicily about 1150, A.D., and finally the whole of Europe became acquainted with the silk-making process.

Since the introduction of silk into Europe, its manufacture has formed a large part of the industries of Italy, Turkey and Greece. The inhabitants of France, Spain and Portugal, have also engaged in the art, but only to a limited extent. The cultivation of the silk worm has been attempted in England, but with little success, on account of the climate being so cold and variable.

The quantity of silk used at the present time is most enormous. Great Britain alone imports annually thirteen millions pounds weight, valued at £16,500,000 sterling.

## NOTICES OF EXCHANGES, &amp;c.

We have received the prospectus of *Westward Ho!* a weekly journal to be published at Ottawa in the interests of a Canadian immigration. The object of this journal will be, as the prospectus states, "to dissipate in some degree the ignorance with regard to Canada so unfortunately prevalent in the British Isles," and to bring to the notice of intending emigrants the territorial, agricultural, commercial and other resources of our new nationality. This is a laudable enterprise, and we hope that it will meet with the success which it deserves.

A specimen number of "Our Own Fireside," a weekly literary journal, published in Chicago, is on our table. It is somewhat sensational in its character. There is a good poem however in this number, by Will M. Carleton, on *The Burning of Chicago*, which, fortunately for the author, contains no allusion to that much-aggrieved bird,—the Phenix.

Messrs. Louis Perrault & Co. have sent us several samples of ornamental printing, executed at their establishment, in Montreal. If we can judge of the general character of their work from these samples, we would pronounce it first-class. Business-Cards, Address-Cards, Bill-Heads, and Circulars, are alike executed with extreme neatness and care. We would advise all who desire ornamental printing in the highest style of that art, to patronize Messrs. Louis Perrault & Co., 230 St. James Street, Montreal.

BUSINESS Letters received since last issue, from H. A. Bayne, B.A., J. A. MacCabe, Rev. C. B. Pitblado, Prof. W. Elder, A. Simpson, P.E.I., Isaac Grant, A. Purvis, and Hezekiah Murray.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. S. A letter addressed to care Mrs. J. Miller, 4 Park St., Edinburgh, will find J. G. MacGregor, or any of our Edinburgh students.

H. A. B. No more is due; thanks for your kindness.

## Correspondence.

### EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY AND THE FEMALE MEDICALS.

DEAR GAZETTE: When I mailed my last letter, the University Court were about to come to a decision on the very important question of the Medical Education of Females. The party of opposition had high hopes that the resolutions by which Ladies had gained access to the Medical classes, would be repealed, and the supporters of the movement feared the same result. The hopes, however, were fallacious, the fears groundless. The Court resolved "that it is not advisable at present to receive the regulations previously passed with reference to the Medical Education of women," adding a clause in which it was asserted that these regulations could not be considered as implying that the ladies were to be allowed to graduate. With the exception of the statement contained in this clause, therefore, matters were in the same state as they had been previously.

Miss Jex-Blake, like a skilful general, now returned to the charge. She argued that if the regulations were not to be rescinded, all obstacles preventing them from being carried out should be removed, and in order to their removal she laid before the Court certain papers. In these papers it was stated that certain professors of the Faculty of Medicine had declined to give separate courses of instruction to women; and the Court were asked either 1. To extend, in the case of female students, the privilege granted, by ordinance of the University Commissioners, to lecturers, not being professors in the University, of qualifying for graduation by their lectures, which privilege is now restricted to four of the prescribed subjects of study; or, 2, to authorise the appointment of special lecturers to give, in the University, qualifying courses of instruction in place of those professors who decline to do so; or, 3, to ordain that the professors referred to should themselves give the necessary courses of instruction to women.

To these requests the Court returned the following answer, which as being a most important decision, I quote in full:

"The second course suggested is not in the power of the Court or other university authorities, singly or jointly, to adopt.

The third course is equally beyond the power of the Court. No professor can be compelled to give courses of instruction other than those which, by the use and wont of the University, it has been the duty of the holders of his chair to deliver.

The first of the proposed measures would imply an alteration in one of the ordinances for graduation in medicine. Such alteration can be made by the University Court only, with the consent, expressed in writing, of the Chancellor, and with the approval of Her Majesty in Council. But to alter in favor of female students, rules laid down for the regulation of graduation in medicine, would imply an assumption on the part of the Court that the University of Edinburgh has the power of granting degrees to women. It seems to the Court impossible for them to assume the existence of a power which is questioned in many quarters, and which is both affirmed and denied by eminent counsel. So long as these doubts remain, it would, in the opinion of the Court, be premature to consider the expediency of taking steps to obtain, in favor of female students, an alteration of an ordinance which may be held not to apply to women.

Though the Court are unable to comply with any of the specific requests referred to, they are at the same time desirous to remove, so far as possible, any present obstacle in the way of a complete medical education being given to women, provided always that medical instruction to women be imparted in strictly separate classes.

The Court are of opinion that the question under reference has been complicated by the introduction of the subject of graduation, which is not essential to the completion of a medical or other education. The University of London, which has a special charter for the examination of women, does not confer degrees upon women, but only grants them 'certificates of proficiency.' If the applicants in the present case would be content to seek the examination of women by the University for certificates of proficiency in medicine, instead of for University degrees, the Court believe that arrangements for accomplishing this object would fall within the scope of the powers given to them by section 12 of the

Universities (Scotland) Act. The Court would be willing to consider any such arrangements which might be submitted to them."

It is impossible to say what action the ladies will now take. Their wisest course is to accept the "certificate of proficiency," but it is not easy for human nature, and especially for that part of it which is resident in woman, to abandon a favourite plan. Some speak of a suit at law, others threaten to induce the Government to withdraw their annual grant until the University bows to the will of Miss Jex-Blake & Co. These, however, are but the cries of extremists. There are wise men in the party, and we may rest assured that nothing will be done without due consideration.

Yours, etc.,

Edinburgh, Jan 15th, 1872.

MAC.

## College Notes.

THE Methodists have the most Colleges of any church in the United States, being 61. The Catholics next, 58.—*Univ. Recorder.*

THE *Athenæum* says that at Cambridge "the knowledge of the Greek letters and of one of Mr. Bohn's translations sometimes constitutes the undergraduate's sole claim to be accounted a Greek scholar."

AN orator of McKendree College proposes to grasp a ray of light from the great orb of day, spin it into threads of gold, and with them weave a shroud in which to wrap the whirlwind which dies upon the Western prairies.—*Cap and Gown.*

THERE are about 150,000 colored pupils in the day and night schools in the former slave States and district of Columbia. Twenty-five schools of various grades and advantages have been established, mostly under the direction of the Congregationalists. Thirteen of these hold property which amounts in the aggregate to over \$1,000,000. These institutions, however, with their liberal endowments, are not adequate to meet the educational wants of the colored people. An effort is therefore being made to obtain help from Congress to establish new schools and increase the endowment of those already in existence.—*The Tripod.*

A YOUNG lady of Michigan University, who was passing an examination in Greek, after she had read the passage assigned, addressed the Professor in these words: "Do let me read some more; this is such a beautiful passage."

Young men never do such things.—*Cap and Gown.*

AMONG the recollections revived at the recent Williams College reunion at New York City was that of the suspension of William Cullen Bryant for a flagrant violation of the rules of the college. His offence consisted in reciting a poem entitled "Thanatopsis," before it had been corrected by the President! The result was that Bryant graduated at Yale, and the poem went forth to the world in the unfinished condition in which the present finds it.—*The Tripod.*

THE following, according to an exchange, is the bill of fare with which the ladies of Vassar were entertained on Thanksgiving day: Apples, Bananas, Havana Oranges, Assorted Nuts, Figs, Almonds, Raisins; Catawba, Isabella, Malaga and California Grapes; Pyramids of Strawberry, Vanilla and Chocolate Ice Creams; Tea, Coffee and Chocolate.—*The Tripod.*

Young men will no doubt soon be applying for admission to Vassar.

FIVE Japanese Princesses are said to have landed at San Francisco, and to be on their way to Vassar.—*Ex.*  
Their "heathenish days are no more."

## Dalhusiensia.

A SENIOR reading Moliere's "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme" in the French Class the other day rendered the passage

"Je croyais Jeanetton  
Aussi douce que belle  
Je croyais Jeanetton  
Plus douce que mouton."

in the following style:

I thought my Jeanette  
As beautiful as she was sweet,  
I thought my Jeanette  
Sweeter than a piece of meat.

Genius will out.

THE library is almost deserted. Strange and horrid sounds are heard beneath it. Whether the elfs are the ghosts of the past or the warnings of the future, we cannot tell. An investigation should be made.

A SENIOR, concluding an elegant oration on America for the Americans, said—"I cannot go in for a union of the Canadians and Yankees, while the latter are so immoral. Let them excommunicate their immoralities, and then we may talk over the matter." We are at a loss to know what kind of a bull should be issued to have the desired effect.

A JUNIOR preparing the first act of the Adelphi of Terence, a few evenings since, spent an hour or more in a fruitless endeavor to find the meaning of the word *Storax*. Finally he gave up in despair, concluding that it must be an obsolete interjection corresponding to the English *holloa*, or something like that.

INTERESTING.—A Freshman reports that he has discovered in this city an *indescribable*, which if not the work of art, must be very interesting to curiosity-hunters. The specimen had an inscription expressed thus: "*A Gaping Asylum for Literary Inutilities*." If not a chance production of nature, as some conjecture, it must undoubtedly be a relic of the monastic age.

DEPENDING on Almanac information, which in this particular case from some oversight or want of care on the part of the compiler probably, is on a par with its weather predictions, a certain individual writing on "Universities" the other day astounded us by the following piece of information: Now as to Dalhousie; on comparing it with its brethren, it will be seen that in reality it has no advantage over them, as to *variety* of instruction, for although it affords these *three* branches—Metaphysics, Psychology and Mineralogy, not as it appears taught in any of the others, except probably Mineralogy in Acadia—yet it does not instruct in these *five* most important branches, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Mental Philosophy, Composition, and Hebrew, which are taught in one or other of its four compeers." If the writer had taken the trouble of sending for a Calendar of the University, he would find that all these and many other "branches" not taught elsewhere in the province are provided for. Excepting the Medical College,—the following are provided for in the Arts and Science Courses alone. Rhetoric, English Literature, French, German, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Comparative Philology, Psychology, Logic, Metaphysics, Æsthetics, Ethics, Political Economy, History, Mathematics, (pure), Math. Physics, Experimental Physics, (these last two constituting what is called *Natural Philosophy*.) Astronomy, Chemistry, Mineralogy, Botany, Zoology, Geology, Anatomy and Animal Physiology. We make no further comment.

## Scientific Items.

THE phosphorescence which often renders the sea so beautiful, does not come from living tissues, but from dead or cast-off matter in the first stages of decomposition. In fishes, oxygen easily penetrates the skin, and acts upon the adipose tissue; in other marine animals, glands, containing a secretion in which there is fatty matter in a state of degeneration present, are cast off and give rise to phosphorescence in the same way that decaying fish or bones do, viz.: by the formation of a phosphoric hydrocarbon or of phosphoretted hydrogen.

AMONG the greatest wonders of modern science, are the revelations made by the microscope in the world of the "Infinitely Little." By microscopic power, a surface can be enlarged 56,000,000 times, and the organization of animalcules so small that 10,000 of them could be ranged in the length of an inch, can be studied. These "infusoria" or "protozoa," as they are called, possess immense vitality and energy. Most have twenty, and some even a hundred stomachs, which are coated over with teeth, so that mastication and digestion constitute but one process, and their blood-cavities are said to be fifty times as strong in proportion, as the heart of the horse or the ox. They are found in the blood of man, and our mouths are filled with them. They extract silica from sea-water to form their skeletons, and the greater part of the siliceous strata of the globe are nothing more than "cemeteries of animalcules, millions of whose corpses would not have made up a cubic inch."

A NEW branch of photography has just been brought into notice. An Italian photographer, by means of the diving-bell and powerful artificial light, has succeeded in producing some submarine views with a perfect success. The attempts were made upon the Italian coast, and the most fantastic images obtained, showing the vegetation and zoöphytes of the sea's bottom. This is certainly something most remarkable, and only another proof of the eminence of the Italians in this branch of science. The Italian photographs, both landscapes and portraits, are proverbially fine. In the portrait line they have quite a novelty which we have not yet seen in this country. The face of the sitter is covered with a species of cement or hardening mixture which completely fills up all the wrinkles and hides the blemishes, producing, when the negative is touched up, a picture of wondrous softness and beauty. We have seen one of these productions, and can vouch for the accuracy of our statement.—*Cap and Gown*.

### THE SONG OF THE CHEMIST.

Oh, come where the Cyanides silently flow,  
And the Carburets droop o'er the Oxides below;  
Where the rays of Potassium lie white on the hill,  
And the song of the Silicate never is still.

Come, oh, come!

Tumti, tum tum!

Peroxide of Soda and Urani-um!

While Alcohol's liquid at thirty degrees,  
And no chemical change can affect Manganese;  
While Alkalies flourish, and Acids are free,  
My heart shall be constant, sweet science, to thee!

Yes, to thee!

Fiddledum-dee!

Zinc, Borax and Bismuth; and H O+C.—*London Fun*

**A. & W. MACKINLAY,**  
PUBLISHERS,  
*BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS,*  
**GRANVILLE STREET,**  
**HALIFAX, N. S.**

**GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE.**  
**GEO. Y. YOUNG & CO.,**  
No. 106 Granville Street,  
IMPORTERS OF  
SHIRTS, GLOVES, BRACES, TIES, HOSIERY,  
**READY-MADE CLOTHING,**  
Umbrellas, Portmanteaus, Valises, &c. &c.  
*Shirts Made to Order.*

**NEW BOOKS.**  
**PROVINCIAL BOOKSTORE,**  
No. 68 GRANVILLE STREET,  
UPPER FRONT OF PROVINCE BUILDING.

Pujol's French Class Book, Adler's German Reader, Ahn's German Grammar, Angus' Handbook of the English Tongue, Latham's Handbook of the English Language, Principia Latina, Initia Græca, Potts' Euclid, Colenso's Arithmetic, Algebra and Trigonometry, Todhunter's Conic Sections, Plane Trigonometry and Algebra, Ganot's Physics, Livy, Herodotus, Homer, Sophocles, and all other Classics, Weale and other Publishers, Fowne's Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, with all the other books in use in Dalhousie College and other Educational institutions.

Subscriptions received for all English and American Periodicals.

A. P. KATZMANN.

**Z. S. HALL,**  
ARMY AND NAVY  
**BOOKSELLER & STATIONER,**  
ALSO DEALER IN  
ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PERIODICALS,  
**Newspapers, Music, &c., &c.**  
BOOK-BINDING and PRINTING in all their Branches.  
**165 AND 167 HOLLIS STREET,**  
**HALIFAX, N. S.**

**CONNOLLY & KELLY,**  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
**BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS,**  
*34 and 36 George Street,*  
**HALIFAX.**

COLLEGE STATIONERY of all kinds, including CLASS NOTE BOOKS, of various sizes and bindings; together with all the articles in our line required by Students.

A full assortment of the Medical Works recognized and used by the Medical Faculty of Dalhousie College, always on hand.

**STEPHEN T. HALL,**  
**BOOKSELLER, STATIONER, AND DEALER IN**  
**FANCY GOODS,**  
**100 UPPER WATER ST.,**  
Opposite Tobin's Wharf, **HALIFAX, N. S.**

*Stationery Stamped with Die or Monogram,*  
VARIOUS COLOURS.  
Book-binding, Copper Plate and Letter Press Printing,  
neatly and promptly executed.

**WILLIAM GOSSIP,**  
UNITED SERVICE  
**BOOK & STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,**  
No. 87 GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX.  
Imports and deals in all kinds of

**COLLEGE AND SCHOOL BOOKS.**

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Books and Stationery, Paper Hangings Borderings, Plain and Figured Paper Window Blinds. Mathematical Instruments, Surveyors' Chains and Tapes always on hand. Special attention given to the Importation and Sale of ARTISTS' MATERIALS, from the best Houses in the World. PRINTING and BOOKBINDING done to order, and with despatch. BOOKS, &c. imported to order, from Great Britain and the United States, with the greatest punctuality.

Enquire particularly for

**WILLIAM GOSSIP,**  
87 Granville Street.

THE  
**"DALHOUSIE GAZETTE"**

Is issued every alternate Saturday, during the session, by the

Students of Dalhousie College and University.

TERMS.

One Collegiate Year (in advance).....\$0.50  
Single copies. .... 05

To be had at the Bookstores of Messrs. Connolly & Kelly and S. T. Hall.

The "Gazette" is forwarded to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, and until all arrears are paid.

Payments to be made to A. I. Trueman, and all communications addressed to Editors "DALHOUSIE GAZETTE," Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Printed by the "NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY," corner Granville and Sackville Streets, Halifax, N. S.