

Wm. McDonald

# THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA

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AS the student draws nearer and nearer the time of his graduation, the joy at the thought of being about to enter into the activities of real life and of being successful therein, is reduced more and more before the fact that separation from his college relationships is at hand. He deeply regrets that he must part from those together with whom he dipped into the lore and admired the beauty of the ancient workers, wondered at the marvels of chemistry and physics, and wrestled with the problems of logic and metaphysic. It is with feelings deep as the well of tears that he parts from his desk mate at whose side he sat and cracked jokes for four long terms.

Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge have revisited their Alma Mater after years of absence, and stood in the quadrangle with heads uncovered thinking of happy days gone by. We believe that Dalhousie is as dear to a Dalhousie graduate as Oxford is to an Oxford graduate. We believe that the relations formed in the one case are as loath to be severed as in the other. What can be done to maintain them?

We have no branch of such an organization as the  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\phi$ , of American Universities—though we ought to have—by which each member of a class can keep trace of the others.

Our own Alumni Association though indispensable in its place is not sufficient for the purpose.

Several of the classes recently graduated, have formed themselves into permanent organizations with standing officers, and expect to meet occasionally for "Auld Lang Syne." For instance the class of '99 have such an organization and expect to meet in 1901. We think it a capital plan and advise each succeeding class to follow their example, until something more adequate can be devised. It would be well for each class before separation to appoint permanent officers and standing committees, to form a list of the members, and to decide about means of future communication.

It would be preferable to have a meeting of the class at which the roll might be called, comments made on those absent as to their station and occupation, friendships renewed, the interests of our *alma mater* discussed, and funds raised for the library in part payment of what each owes the college for his education. Probably it would be better for such a meeting to take the form of a dinner.

If it is found unpracticable to have a class meeting, other means of communication might be adopted. Every two or three years, each member of the class might write to the President or Secretary an account of himself and of how the world is using him, (always enclosing his remittance for the library fund and expenses of the organization.) The President or Secretary would summarize these accounts and have the summary printed or mimeographed, and send a copy to each member.

Another method would be for the President to start a letter chain—something like that with which we used to be duped, but without the ten cents—by writing to the Vice-president, say, with instructions to add a note of his own and to pass it on to the next and so on, each in turn adding a note until it had gone round the class twice.

Other methods might be devised, and if any reader has a scheme which he thinks better, the GAZETTE will be glad to hear it.

THE Law School will in a few days contribute another quota of her sons to swell the number of those who are struggling for success and distinction in the ranks of Themis. Probably the dozen or more young men who are about to leave us recognize more fully than we do the significance of their position. Certainly the responsibilities under which they labor are heavy and exacting. Most of them will be obliged at the outset to compete under trying circumstances and against heavy odds. As in nearly all other undertakings, the critical part of a profession is the beginning. Success or failure is often determined by the manner of the commencement. One false step, one swerve from the right path at the beginning of one's lifework may materially lessen its advancement. But we are not anticipating failure for the Class of '00. Of some of its members we entertain the highest hopes. The interest with which we have viewed their college careers will grow keener as we mark their progress in the rough uneven paths of real life.

Personally we shall feel keenly the loss of this year's graduates. On the college campus or in the college debating societies nearly all of them have taken an active part. It will be difficult to grow accustomed to the new students who will take their places. We shall miss their familiar whistle even though it may be woefully discordant; and the blending of new voices in the time honored songs will be distinct reminders of those who are gone. But these are only incidents of college life. A few months and we also shall be numbered among students of the past. Let us join in wishing those who are now leaving us a happy journey through life, and success and prosperity in their chosen careers.

SINCE our last issue, we in the Law School have been in the throes of getting up work for the examinations and those of us who are to graduate, never, perhaps, gave a passing thought to the college we leave behind. It is not selfishness; nor is it indifference. It may be perhaps that Law students in the past have not taken that interest in their Alma Mater which they should as true Dalhousians. The idea

has got abroad that the Law men are not as thoroughly Dalhousians as the Arts' for instance. But why this? Do we not receive our lectures in the same institution? Is not the President of the University a member of our faculty as well as the Arts, Science, or Medicine? Is it because our circle is small that we do not share in the honors and successes of the "Varsity by the Sea?"

It can be easily seen, after a moment's reflection, that all these queries, if answered, would conclusively prove that the Law students of Dalhousie are Dalhousians in every sense of the word, and of this fact every one of us should be justly proud.

So let us, who pass out in the exodus of embryo barristers, try always to remember that we owe a duty to our Alma Mater and if we cannot help Dalhousie as a University, always do our best for the Law School we left behind, which is a part of old Dalhousie herself.

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IT is with much pleasure that the GAZETTE notices a change in the regulation of the college museum. Heretofore the only intimation the student had of the existence of such an institution was an announcement in the Calendar to the effect that the museum contained certain Biological and Archaeological collections, but strange to say this museum was not much in evidence. Some one of the doors in the upper hall bore a card on which was written "museum," but this door was locked and the room, so guarded, was practically useless to the student. No one seemed able to gain admittance, at least, without considerable trouble. Students who had attended the college year after year could tell you absolutely nothing about the museum, except what the Calendar contained, and we fear that the impression given by the Calendar would have been somewhat marred, had anyone visited the museum, since the most apparent element therein was dust.

Now, however, a change has been instituted. The museum rooms have been cleaned, the specimens dusted, and most of the biological preparations properly classified and neatly arranged. A large wall case has been added and well

filled with specimens representing the order of the Vertebrate etc., while, on a well arranged table are found types of many of the order of the Invertebrates including a large case of insects. The collection of birds is of the highest order, and certainly give to students studying this part of Biology an excellent opportunity of pursuing their work.

Many specimens have been added to the museum since the class in Zoology was started in 1898, and we are informed that a catalogue of the Zoological specimens is in course of preparation. Copies of this may be expected at an early date.

A further improvement has been made in having the museum open on certain days in charge of appointed students, so that any student, and particularly those taking the Biology classes, may have an opportunity of visiting the museum and studying any of the specimens there found. We trust that the students may avail themselves of the opportunities thus afforded, and that both students and graduates may do all in their power to assist the college authorities in increasing the collection already in the museum. May this progressive move, so well begun, be continued, and it will not be long until Dalhousie will have a museum of which she may be proud. A further improvement, in line with those mentioned above, we hope, may lead to the establishment of a Biological Laboratory in the near future.

---

JANE.

One of the oddest characters that I have ever known was a colored woman named Jane, who lived for some time as a domestic in my aunt's family. Jane was very large and fat, and as black as she could possibly be, but as neat as wax. I do not think I have ever seen her when she was not wearing a long, starched, spotlessly white apron. Her kitchen was always in order, and she would have been what the ladies call a "perfect treasure of a cook," if she had not had several inconvenient peculiarities.

One of these was that she could not, or would not, remember her mistress' name. She called each member of the family from my aunt to my youngest cousin, "Deah," and no amount of persuasion could convince her that this was

not the correct thing to do. My cousin Sadie, a dignified young lady of eight years, greatly resented this familiarity. "You must *not* call my mother, 'dear' Jane," she would say, "Don't you know it's not respect'ful? You must call her 'Mrs. Jones,' and me, 'Miss Sadie'." And the placid Jane would answer with the utmost good-nature, "All right deah. Git along out o' this now, I'm goin' to redd up." And all poor Sadie's efforts brought the same result.

Jane believed that she had a finely developed talent for music. She always sang while working around, and all her songs were of her own composition. She had a great contempt for any others, and used to say, "Them printed songs ain't wuth a sixpence." She would often gather the children around her and sing to them her collection of songs, of which the only ones whose names I remember, were "The Scoldin' Woman" and "Flusteration." As her productions were songs without words, and the tunes very much alike, one would think they would grow tiresome, but the children never found them so. While singing, she had a trick of rolling her eyes until the whites looked startling and of twisting the corners of her mouth, that kept her audience in convulsions of laughter, which she always considered as tokens of their admiration. At one time a relative of the family, who was a graduate of a Conservatory of Music, was visiting at the house. Jane had been seen listening several times when the guest was playing the piano, and one day some one asked her what she thought of the music. "She don' know much," said Jane, with a scornful sniff. "But," she added condescendingly, "Ef she practises a *lot*, she might get to be toler'ble good player in a few years."

Jane was a great worker in the Methodist colored church to which she belonged. Indeed from the conversation one would think she was its chief support and main-stay. She thought it was a great piece of injustice that she was not allowed to attend Sunday morning "sarvice" and was often heard wondering audibly "how the minister was gettin' along without her." She almost nightly entertained one of the deacons in the kitchen and when my aunt remonstrated, she said "she'd like to know why she and Deacon Brown couldn't hold prar-meetin's' in the kitchen, if they wanted to." But my aunt was hard-hearted enough to be firm and the "prar-meetin's" were prohibited.

I am sorry to say that Jane had a wonderful talent for telling what cousin Hal called "whoppers." She would tell most miraculous stories of what had happened to herself, and

if anyone expressed a doubt as to their truth she would say, "Hope I may die if it ain't true." As Hal used to say, "Sapphira was nowhere 'in it' when Jane was around."

Like most of her race, she was intensely superstitious. If she heard a dog howling she was not satisfied until she found out whether its nose was pointing towards the house or not, and if it was, she was sure something dreadful was going to happen to some one in the house. She was a firm believer in dreams, and fortunes in the bottom of tea-cups. One day my aunt received word of the death of a relative. When Jane heard of it, she said "she knew there was going to be a death in the family 'cause she'd got a coffin in a hearse drawn by four black horses, in her tea-cup the night before."

After a while she developed a most exasperating habit of calmly ignoring any command she did not like. If it suited her pleasure to do a thing she would do it, if not, she left it undone. This habit grew until my aunt found it impossible to get on with her, and so it became necessary to dismiss poor Jane. She left vowing that she would get another place where she and Deacon Brown could have their "prar-meetin's" undisturbed. She kept her vow by marrying the poor Deacon.

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#### HOCKEY.

Hockey, as we know it, is essentially a Canadian game—in fact it has come to be regarded as the national winter sport of Canada. Its origin is very obscure, hailing from no one knows where. In a very crude form it was played by the ancient Romans, and the game of "Shinty" or "Shinny" was indulged in by our ancestors of Britain. To the McGill college and also, I believe, the Victoria hockey teams of Montreal, does hockey owe its present scientific state.

But to come nearer home what has Dalhousie done in our national winter game? When hockey was first introduced in Halifax, Dalhousie's team, so I am told, took a very prominent part, defeating its time honored rivals, the Wanderers, by large scores. Such, alas! is not the case to-day. How do we account for the change? At the time of Dalhousie's superiority, hockey was in its infancy. Since that time the game has been becoming more scientific, and while other teams of Halifax have been given opportunities for keeping up with the game, Dalhousie has had none. Consequently Dalhousie's team cannot, by any means, hold its own.

What is to be done? Before discussing this, though,



there is another question to be considered. There have been questionings, more or less, as to the advisability of Dalhousie's having a hockey team. In the mind of the writer there is no question. We should have a hockey team.

As stated above, McGill college was a pioneer in the matter, and since that time a rink has been built for hockey purposes. Surely at McGill there can be no question as to the advisability of having a hockey team. At Queen's, hockey is in a flourishing condition. Trinity and Osgoode Hall have first class teams, and indeed Harvard, Yale, Brown, Columbia and other American colleges, have, within a few years, all organized hockey teams. Why is Dalhousie so backward?

Apart from this, hockey gives a man a splendid training. It develops him physically—sharpens his eye, trains his judgment, and in no game is there required such quick and accurate thinking. If Mr. Locke and his contemporary authorities on educational matters had been acquainted with this game, they surely would have included it in their curriculum.

It has been cited against forming a hockey team that our finances will not permit of it. I contend that it can be made a paying investment. It has been so with other teams, and why not with us? The Wanderer's Club was a gainer of \$300 last year through its hockey team, and there are many other instances. Of course, some money would be required (in hiring a rink, etc.) until our team was in a position to enter the league. Then the way is clear. One rink manager has already made the offer, that if Dalhousie would enter a team in the league next year he would give us our practices free and a guarantee of a certain per cent. of the gate receipts. It, then, would be a paying investment and so, why can't we have a hockey team.

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#### THE LEGAL ASPECT OF THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

Municipal laws and their administration by the Courts, have a prominent place in the Merchant of Venice. The venue of the case is laid in Italy instead of England, the Courts sit at Venice instead of Westminster Hall, but the legal terms, references, and procedure, are largely English.

The most thrilling and dramatic scene in the play is the result of a simple, every-day, legal transaction. The rigorous application of the principles of the law of contract endangers human life. Judicial murder is averted only by

judicial ingenuity. The hard and fast rules of common law are softened and modified by judicial interpretation.

Through it all is seen the Englishman's respect for the law he has made, and the English sense of justice. The most powerful and influential citizen is not above the law. Portia in doing her "great right," is careful to do no violence to the parliamentary expression of the people's will.

Shakespeare draws his legal documents, and makes use of legal phrases and technical terms with the confidence and correctness of the skilled practitioner. He is equally familiar with matters of substantive law and procedure. In one particular, however, he appears to have fallen into error. The distinction between a single bond and one containing a condition is not observed.

Bonds are of two kinds. If the party bound merely agrees to pay a certain sum of money to another, at a day appointed, the bond is called single. If to this a condition is added, that, if the obligor does some particular act on or before a day agreed upon, the obligation shall be void; or, if this act be not done, to remain in full force and effect, the bond is said to be conditional.

Clearly Antonio's bond was of this last class. Its condition was the repayment of three thousand ducats, within three months. But Shakespeare calls the bond single.

"Go with me to a notary and seal me there,  
Your single bond."

Text commentators have regarded the word "single," not in a technical way, but as meaning a bond having Antonio's signature only, without the names of sureties. This reading preserves Shakespeare from misuse of legal terms. But the occurrence of the word "single," in a discussion concerning bonds, can scarcely be accidental. The poet's fondness for such phraseology strengthens this view. The late Chief Justice Campbell of England, in his very brief notice of the Merchant of Venice, does not touch this point. From his silence, we may, perhaps, infer, that he too regarded "single" as meaning that one person alone should be bound. The Blackstonian division of bonds into two classes was practically obsolete in the learned judge's day; but was carefully insisted upon by the sixteenth century lawyer.

In early times the defendant in civil actions could not be arrested. A writ, called the original writ or process, was issued against him, calling upon him to appear and answer the complaint. Failure in this resulted in attachment and seizure of his property. This rule against arrest arose out of

feudal law. For injuries merely civil, the person of the feudatory was not liable to be taken, lest the lord should thereby be deprived of his services.

But in cases of injury accompanied by force, a more summary proceeding prevailed. If the defendant disobeyed the original writ, and had no property which might be attached, he was liable to arrest on a writ of *capias*. By statutes 25 Ed III. Ch. 17, and 19 Hen. VII Ch. 9, this procedure was extended to actions of debt. Later, a custom grew up of dispensing altogether with the original writ. By a fiction of law this writ was presumed to have been issued and disobeyed, and a *capias* was granted in the first instance. Upon it the defendant might be arrested and committed to goal. The *capias* commanded the sheriff to "take the body of the defendant and him safely keep," that he might be in Court on the day of trial. This was called *mesne*, as distinguished from original process.

If a defendant, once in custody, was afterwards seen at large, it was, in the eyes of the law, an "escape." For an "escape" the plaintiff could maintain an action against the sheriff for the whole debt.

These processes and the rights of a creditor against a sheriff charged with the safe keeping of an imprisoned debtor, were clearly understood by Shakspeare. The following passage in Act III. Sc. 3, shows this,

"Gaoler look to him . . . . . I do wonder,  
Thou naughty goaler, that thou art so fond  
To come abroad with him at his request."

Undoubtedly Antonio had been arrested on *mesne* process and lodged in goal. For allowing his prisoner outside the walls the keeper was threatened by Shylock with an action for escape.

It is worth observing, however, that the gaoler was not liable in this case. Up to the reign of Wm. III, it was only arrests on a writ of execution, that any liberty allowed the prisoner, gave the right of action for escape. This writ of execution issued against the defendant upon final judgment being signed against him. A person arrested on *mesne* process could be indulged by the sheriff as he pleased. So long as the defendant was produced in court on the day of trial, no action for escape could be maintained.

But the substantial truth is brought out, that, in general, the sheriff was responsible for his prisoner. Strict observance of the fine legal distinctions, between arrests on *mesne* process and under an execution, was unnecessary.

The intricacies of special pleading were also known to Shakspeare. Through that "wilderness of single instances" he took his way with confident accuracy.

The plaintiff's first step in pleading was to file his declaration. In this he set forth his cause of action. The answer of the defendant to the declaration was the plea. Pleas were of two kinds, the "general issue," or, a special plea in bar. The "general issue" denied at once the whole declaration. Special pleas in bar admitted the truth of the declaration, but set forth special matter in bar of the plaintiff's demand.

The "general issue" to an action of debt on a bond, was, in technical language, "*non est factum*." Shakspeare illustrates this in the court scene.

Portia :—

"Do you confess the bond?"

Antonio :—

"I do."

"*Non est factum*" could not be successfully pleaded by Antonio. His defense would consist of a special plea in bar.

In bonds, given for money borrowed, the penalty for non-payment according to the terms expressed in the condition, was out of all proportion to the value of the consideration rendered the person bound. Any penalty might be agreed upon. It was usually a sum of money double the amount lent. Upon forfeiture this whole amount was formerly recoverable at law. But here the Courts of Equity interposed, and would not permit a man to take more than in good conscience he ought. This would be his principal, interest and expenses; or damage suffered, if the bond were not for money borrowed. In the early history of the courts this corrective power was discretionary. No certain rules governed its use. Bassanio's appeal to Portia was based upon this right of the judge to apply the rules of equity.

"And I beseech you,  
Wrest once the law to your authority :  
To do a great right, do a little wrong,  
And curb this cruel devil of his will."

Further evidence of Shakspeare's familiarity with legal documents, is seen in the use of the word "formerly"

And thou hast incurred  
The danger formerly by me rehearsed."

This word was extensively used in deeds, wills, and other instruments in the sense of "above." In the will of Sir Robert Hitcham, by which he devised certain real estate to Pembroke-Hall College, it occurs with this meaning: "And

if the said College shall wilfully refuse to perform this my will, . . . . my devise unto them shall be void ; and I do devise the same unto Emanuel College, in Cambridge, in the same manner and form, as it is formerly devised unto Pembroke-Hall."

Farther on, more legal knowledge appears. The laws of real property, governing the creation and transference of future estates in land, are drawn upon.

"To quit the fine for one half of his goods  
I am content ; so he will let me have  
The other half in use, to render it,  
Upon his death, unto the gentleman  
That lately stole his daughter."

Under the feudal system, the transfer of real estate was burdened with many restrictions. By the statute of Mortmain, ecclesiastical corporations were forbidden to hold land. A way out of the difficulty was found by the invention of Uses. A, wishing to devise land to a religious institution granted it to B., "to the use" of that institution. The clerical Lord Chancellors of those times, held this trust binding on the conscience of B., and would order him to execute it. Refusal or neglect, was punished by attachment and imprisonment for contempt. Uses soon became a general way of avoiding the restrictions of the feudal law. In the reign of Elizabeth they were common.

When an estate was to be given to any person after the death of another, it was necessary that a third person be given a title to the property. He would hold "to the use" of the second after the death of the first. This was necessary to render the estate of the future possessor secure.

Such an instrument was called a Conveyance to Uses. The party holding the estate in trust, was said to be possessed or "seized to the use," of the future owner. Antonio was thus to be possessed or "seized" of one-half of the estate, "to the use" or in trust for Lorenzo and Jessica, upon the death of Shylock.

The knowledge that every Englishman was entitled to be tried by his peers, was part of Shakspeare's legal acquirements. This right had existed, observes an old commentator, "from a time whence the memory of man runneth not to the contrary."

"In christening thou shalt have two godfathers ;  
Had I been judge thou shouldst have had ten more,  
To bring thee to the gallows, not the font."

The meaning of this passage is plainly a jury of twelve

men, to try Shylock for an attempt to murder, which was a capital offence in the days of Elizabeth.

Under an ancient statute the Clerks of Assize and of the Peace were entitled to fees from all acquitted prisoners. In default of payment they had a lien on the body of the prisoner. Thus the Duke's suggestion, that Antonio "gratify this gentleman," had a legal significance.

The play closes with a plain allusion to English procedure-

"Let us go in,  
And charge us there upon interrogatories,  
And we will answer all things faithfully."

In the Queen's Bench Division, when a complaint was made against a person for contempt, before trial and sentence, he was sent to the Crown Office, and being there "charged upon interrogatories," he was made to swear that "he will answer all things faithfully."

Passing to a consideration of the bond, and the construction placed on it by Portia, it should be borne in mind that the English Common Law relating to contracts, followed closely the Roman Civil Law. Thus the rules governing contractual duties and obligation were the same in Venice and England.

It is hard to see that Portia's exposition was "most sound." The Court held that the bond was valid, and that lawfully the Jew might claim exaction of the penalty. A little later the plaintiff was told that in making the contract he had violated a statute of Venice, and thereby forfeited both his life and property.

If the bond was a lawful contract, how could Shylock be condemned to death for making it? A contract cannot be at once lawful and unlawful. It is a fundamental principle of jurisprudence that any contract, having for its aim the violation of the law of the state, is absolutely null and void. A contract to murder is surely within this rule.

We have been inclined to applaud the ingenuity of Portia in holding that Shylock must shed no drop of blood, nor cut more nor less than an exact pound of flesh. Legally considered we have been wrong. We have allowed this brilliant advocate and judge to blind out eyes to legal truth.

It is a settled and well known principle in contract law, that every stipulation must receive a reasonable construction, and not such as would render its provisions absurd and of no effect. It is also well settled, that whenever a right is given under a contract, whatever may be incidental to properly and effectively securing that right, is also impliedly given. A

right by contract to take water from the well of another carries the implied right to enter the premises without being liable for trespass.

If, as Portia affirmed, the bond was a perfectly valid and binding instrument, which the plaintiff had a right to enforce, how could he be held responsible, civilly or criminally, for the unavoidable consequences of its legal execution? Under the Civil Law, "if there were several creditors, they might share the body of the debtor among them, nor, if any one cut off a larger part than was proportionate to his debt, was he punishable for so doing." Neither did the Civil Law give justification to such a bond. The cutting up of the debtor's body was only incidental to the execution under Roman law. There was no preconceived malicious intention to destroy the life of the debtor, as in the case of Shylock.

Without doubt Shylock's bond was null and void, as being a contract to do an illegal act. Assuming its validity, however, Portia's legal jugglery was unnecessary. Antonio had a perfectly good defence on the ground of fraud. In the text-books fraud is defined as "a false representation of fact, made with knowledge of its falsehood, with intention that it should be acted upon by the complaining party, and actually inducing him to act upon it."

Antonio was induced to execute the bond by the false representations of fact, and fraudulent pretenses of Shylock. When Antonio hesitated, upon the expressed fear of Bassanio, Shylock pretended to treat the whole transaction as a jest, and plainly led Antonio to believe that the penalty would never be enforced. He called it a "merry sport," and gave the impression that Antonio would never be in danger. Although such fraud did not necessarily render the contract void, it was always voidable at the option of the person deceived; and the courts have uniformly held it a sufficient defence to an action on the contract.

In several important particulars the proceedings depart from recognized rules. Portia's deep personal interest in her husband's friend would disqualify her as a judge. She donned, as suited her feminine fancy, the judicial ermine or the advocate's silk. No man shall sit as a judge in his own cause, was a maxim of both Civil and Common Law.

The absence of both counsel and jury strikes one accustomed to the legal machinery of English Courts. But it should not be forgotten that the twelve good men and true had no place in Venetian Courts. Such a body was unknown to Roman Civil Law; the jury system is purely an Anglo-Saxon product.

An examination of this play alone, makes it abundantly clear that Shakspeare's knowledge of law was wide and extremely accurate. It is not surprising that legal niceties are not always obeyed. To do so in every case would mar poetic and dramatic effect. It is sufficient that substantial truth and precision are observed. The poet's legal knowledge, like his other knowledges, was so much material in the hands of a master builder. In so far as this material could serve the worker's end, so far it is used. There is no follower of Blackstone, however wedded to his "codeless myriad of precedent," who does not forgive our Shakspeare for making the refined distinctions of the Common Law yield to the exigencies of dramatic art.

Neither does it seem necessary to conclude with certain scholars that Shakspeare must have had some legal training. Skilled investigators in other departments of human activity would doubtless find a like intimate acquaintance with their craft. His genius was distinguished no less for its range than for its originality. In his workmanship we see an all-embracing intellect moulding and shaping the highest labours of lesser minds into a higher, more finished and more harmonious production. F. A. M.

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#### THE BOER RIFLEMAN'S SONG.

An unknown poet, or at least one who is known only by the initials "L. J. O. B." has written what may be called justly the best poem that the war in South Africa has inspired yet. It is remarkable that this really excellent piece of work has not been circulated widely before this, especially since the British nation is hungry for good war poetry, of which it is not getting much, if any. The poem was printed in the *Telephone*, a weekly paper published in Cape Town, Africa, on September 25th. The word "rooi-baatje" used by the poem refers to the red-coated British soldiers:

Lay my rifle here beside me, put my Bible on my breast,  
For a moment let the wailing bugles cease;  
As the century is closing, I am going to my rest,  
Lord, lettest Thou Thy servant go in peace.  
But loud through all the bugles rings a cadence in my ear,  
And on the winds my hopes of peace are stowed;  
The winds that waft the voices that already I can hear—  
Of the rooi-baatje singing on the road.

Yes, the red-coats are returning; I can hear the steady tramp,  
After twenty years of waiting, lulled to sleep,  
Since rank and file at Potcheitroom we hemmed them in their camp,  
And cut them up at Bronkerspruit like sheep.  
They shelled us at Ingogo, but we galloped into range,  
And we shot the British gunners where they showed;  
I guessed they would return to us—I knew the chance must change—  
Hark! the rooi-baatje singing on the road!

But now from-swept Canada, from India's torrid plains,  
 From lone Australian outposts, hither led ;  
 Obeying their commando, as they heard the bugle's strains,  
 The men in brown have joined the men in red.  
 They come to pay us back the debt they owed ;  
 They come to find the colors at Majuba left and lost,  
 And I hear new voices lifted, and I see strange colors tossed,  
 'Mid the rooi-baatje singing on the road.

The old, old faiths must falter ; the old, old creeds must fail—  
 I hear it in that distant murmur low—  
 The old, old order changes, and 'tis vain for us to rail ;  
 The great world does not want us—we must go,  
 And veldt, and spruit, and kopje to the stranger will belong ;  
 No more to trek before him we shall load ;  
 Too well, too well I know it, for I hear it in the song  
 Of the rooi-baatje singing on the road.

—U. M.

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### Correspondence.

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[We are not responsible for opinions of correspondents.]

FOR shame "Dalhousian," why do you try to bring ridicule on Dalhousie by airing a private grievance in the public press? What did you expect to gain thereby? What did you gain? Were you known, you would certainly gain the contempt of many.

I can find no legitimate reason for "Dalhousian's" contribution to the *Halifax Herald*, other than that he did not attend the ball and regretted it. I assume that his failure to attend the ball was either due to his inability to dance, or his unwillingness to pay up. If I am wrong, "Dalhousian" alone is to blame. I merely take the interpretation of his article that ninety-nine people out of a hundred would take. I would advise "Dalhousian" to learn to dance, in order to enjoy next year's function. "Dalhousian" is presumably a freshman or very much akin thereto, else he would not have written such an article. I was very gratified, indeed, to read the pleasant account of the ball given by "Joan," in the *Acadian Recorder* of February 5th. The account there given would be accepted by thousands of readers as correct. In my freshman days the *Acadian Recorder* was anything but friendly to Dalhousie, and the change which has been brought about is most gratifying. In those days, too, there was a bitter enmity between town and gown, especially on the foot ball field. During the last two years nothing more desirable could be wished for than the universal feeling of good fellowship and friendly rivalry. Can "Dalhousian" tell me what has brought about the change? Unless he can do so he is

occupying newspaper space to which he has no right. As he may be vague on the subject permit me to make it clear. In former years the town feeling towards Dalhousie was decidedly hostile, because the sentiments and aspirations of each differed so much. The student of those days was not generally cultivated enough to enter a first-class drawing room, without showing signs of awkwardness. Within the last couple of years a new class of students has entered Dalhousie, capable of winning "firsts," and also of mingling with the very gayest. To these the friendliness of the town towards Dalhousie is largely due. Town ladies have found that students are really presentable at their functions, and their good opinions are very contagious. To my mind the result is most fortunate, because the four short college years are about the only chance left, after the student leaves his home, to learn something of society. After graduation, the young doctor, lawyer, professor or business man will have no time to learn the ways of society, and it is only when too late that he regrets the lost opportunities of his college years.

On what authority does "Dalhousian" state that "Before anything can be called a Dalhousie affair it must receive the sanction of the general students meeting"? Are the lectures, under the auspices of the Sodales Debating Society, "Dalhousie affairs"? Would it not be analogous to argue that because a student has not the sanction of the general students' meeting, therefore he is not a Dalhousian? "Dalhousian" has clearly shown himself unworthy of the distinction. "A student permitted to attend lectures at Dalhousie" would be his proper designation. But was not the ball given by "students of Dalhousie"? I think it was. My invitation stated that fact. Can "Dalhousian" deny that the ball was supported by the very best and cleverest students of Dalhousie? I assume that, as a student, "Dalhousian" has an ambition to do better than the average of mankind. Why then does he condescend to write an article worthy only of a ten year old? He will find the world to be full of croakers. He should remember that although nothing is perfect, nothing is entirely imperfect. The students who managed the ball may not have been faultless, but their efforts to bring Dalhousie into favor with the town certainly deserve some recognition. There is no doubt that Dalhousie students enjoy more privileges now than ever before.

I remember when the subject of a Students' dance came up year after year in the general students' meeting, and I used to vote for it then. But what was the use. We might have passed a hundred resolutions, the Senate would have

remained equally unmoved. Then the dance question died out for a few years, and it was only last year that there could be found a committee brave enough to undertake to hold a dance. Graduates could hardly believe it true, but it was, and the result was excellent. There is a saying about those foolish ones who "cut the head off the goose that laid the golden egg," and I sincerely hope that "Dalhousian" will not err in that respect. Let me say these few words to "Dalhousian" in parting:—Be most enthusiastic in everything which tends to promote the interests of your university. There are plenty outsiders ready to do the criticizing. Discretion is the better part of valor, and if you disapprove of any action of the students do not rush into print, but seek redress from the students, and the students alone. GRAD.

#### FOOTBALL FOR 1900.

Few at Dalhousie will say that the subject is ill chosen, but some may think the time inopportune for introducing it. In almost, if not all cases, such a thought would indicate that previous thoughts had not been directed toward the subject in hand. The time for talking football for 1900 began when '99's season was ended and will end only when the time for talking up the game for '01 begins. Many disparage talk in advocacy of work. This very preference for work rather than bombast is the best argument for talk at the present. Practice now will not be effectual next fall but plans clearly laid and well followed out during recess and throughout next season will be of inestimable value. And what better time is there for laying plans than now when all those interested are together. Have we grown cold since last season? Surely not, but if so will our interest be keener during the summer?

During the last two seasons Dalhousie has had good material, for the most part, anxious to make the most of themselves in the interests of the college. The team has been well generated by popular captains. And yet we have been defeated. Why? It is not because we have been greatly outclassed. Indeed many of us make bold to think that Dalhousie has had the best team in the league during both seasons.

One might reasonably ask then, why the team, if the best, has only held second and last places during the two years. Many reasons might be assigned, but time will only allow discussion of one and a suggestion of a remedy. It has occurred to the writer that the players are not together enough for the purpose of talking over the game, of noticing and

calling attention to their mutual faults, and to give encouragement where excellence warrants it. On many occasions, suggestions have been offered that the team should during the season have frequent meetings for discussion of the practice games and coming matches. These have been more or less impracticable on account of the time required in going to and from the place of meeting, and difficulty in getting a time suitable for all, and have, after an attempt or so, fallen into disuse. Now as to the suggested remedy, which will not seem new to many, but is such that the time is ripe when it shall pass from a possibility to an actuality. That the players should be more together will be admitted. This may be accomplished most expeditiously and (in regard to time) economically by having them live together. Objections have been made that the scheme is not practicable, but nothing seems more so. With only one or more exceptions the team are boarding or lodging around the city and could as well lodge together as in different places. This would not only give the players a chance to know one another and talk over the game, but would also, if thought expedient, give the executive a chance to regulate the quality of food, the hours and, to some extent, the general habits of the players. Of course the comparative smallness and consequent lessening of the honour of representing the college would require that the restrictions imposed be not heavy, yet the good sense of the boys themselves would allow restrictions that would result in a wonderful increase in the efficiency of the team.

This article is only intended to start the ball rolling and to set the fellows thinking and perchance objecting, for if the matter is thoroughly sifted, it seems hard to believe but that, in some measure at least, the scheme will be acted out. A house could be obtained that would hold twenty or more candidates for places on the team and possibly for both teams. The appointment of a committee to report before the closing of the present session would be a lift in the right direction.

Dalhousie has been beaten by organization and enthusiasm at work, and it is only by organization and enthusiasm of sufficient quantity and proper quality to ensure sustained effort that she may expect to bear back the trophy to the place where it belongs. We Dalhousians have latent enthusiasm enough—we have sufficient ability for organization to land the trophy in Dalhousie's hall at the end of the season of 1900. Will we do it? Then let us begin to organize now and maintain our efforts until we are able to put into effect on the turf the plans we have made on paper during the spring and summer.

G. GRASSIE ARCHIBALD.

## SHALL WE WEAR GOWNS? NO!

MY DEAR MR. EDITOR :—So it's gowns that's worrying you this time, is it?—gowns for us Dalhousians. It's a great idea. I can't agree with you as to the articles themselves, but the idea is all right. Gowns for us pluggers!—it's a big scheme, and I recognize that fact, though I am moved to be somewhat critical.

Dozing over my books the other night—my feet stretched out and over and around my little box stove, the oilless wick of my landlady's tom-thumb lamp cheerfully burning to savory charcoal, and the spirit of study clean gone—I left the world of present realities, and dreamed a dream. But even in the idealism of slumber there was the coloring which is so indelibly stamped upon the life of the college student, the influence of the classic halls.

It seemed to be the late fall of 1901, and I had but lately returned to Halifax. The new century had come in quietly at Dalhousie, with few changes, but one new departure there had been, evidences of which I was soon to see. On visiting the college I entered the main hall, once so familiar, and with that cautious step that the returning pilgrim unconsciously falls into, I went along the corridor till I found myself within the Library. It was class-hour, and only five or six students were at the reading-tables. 'Twas well. More would have been too sudden a shock to my bewildered senses. For these students, I noticed with an indescribable awe, were robed in black. I at once retired, betaking myself to the bell-room, where I sought the confidences of Dr. Price. After a handshake and mutual expressions of welcome, I asked him if the President were dead, and if the students were in mourning therefor. The Doctor assured me that my fears and my awe were groundless,—the students I had seen were merely wearing the regular college costume. Just then the clock struck, and the Doctor pressed the buttons that rang the bells upstairs. "Step outside, and wait a few moments," he said, and dismissed me to my fate.

I went outside. Presently, down the stairway came—oh, what? Graceful forms, Dalhousie's girls—in black. Gowned they were, all of them, and, by this time a bit better used to the idea, I rather liked the added grace and stateliness which the loosely flowing robes gave their wearers. They passed on, and into their parlor.

But now,—oh, shades of abysmal mystery! What were these I saw next descending? More gowns, less grace-

ful and less stately, an army of masculine gowns—the Freshmen I had known in my last year! Instantly, and most vividly, there came before me a sentence in Carlyle: "Thou slobbery Freshman, . . . what hadst thou been without thy blankets?" True, these were no longer Freshmen, but I remembered them as such, and was interested particularly in three or four who had figured prominently in 1899-1900. They were equally prominent in gowns. I stood aside, and gazed from the vantage-point of distance. The blankets fluttered here and there, like imitation angels' wings. One young man towered a head above his companions, and his long, slender frame, within its divinity gown, struck me as especially sepulchral. I could not but be awed. Several other classes had now come down, all in gowns, and the hall was full. Suddenly they dashed wildly upstairs. I followed. I asked the reason why, and some one said, "Scrim." Quick it was in forming; quicker still in acting. It was the Sophs against the new-crop Freshmen. Down the hall, up the hall, on the floor, and in the air; tumbling, rumbling, rolling,—a seething mass of black. The Sophs were out-numbered, and out-gowned. Gowns to right of them, gowns to left of them, gowns behind them, volleyed and thundered, r-r-r-ripped and tore. Suddenly, a silence. On the stairs,—the Foe of Scrim! One fellow seemed the leader, and down the stairs they went together, the Gown and the gown.

I woke. The cats were holding concert in the back yard, but after a few warning pistol shots in their midst, I sat me down again, and soon was dozing as before, and dreaming. This time I was at a general students' meeting, some weeks later than the fatal scrim. The business under discussion was the abolition of gowns. The chairman spoke something as follows:

"*Ladies and Gentlemen* :—We are to decide whether we are in favor of once more abolishing the gown nuisance. We've had a year's trial of it now, and the experiment has not been a success. You know the arguments in favor of it; let me briefly summarize those against it:

1. Gowns are an unnecessary expense. Several lawsuits are even now threatened by city tailors.
2. They're always getting in the way when a fellow tries to move.
3. They're inconvenient at scrimms.
4. Two of the Freshmen have tripped on the tails of their gowns, fallen down stairs, broken their noses, and sent the bills to the general students' society.

5. Visitors to the college sometimes find it difficult to distinguish between students and professors. This is inconvenient.

6. The historic associations have proved a myth.

7. A marked decline in habits of personal appearance, such as dress and gait, has been noticeable, due to the excuse that a gown covers a multitude of sins.

8. Some of the fellows who felt their "exalted position," wore their gowns away down town, displayed them in half a dozen of the big stores, got rotten-egged by the kids, and laughed at by everybody. It served *them* right, but it has brought the college into disrepute.

9. Finally, it is claimed that some of the boys are paying their fees with the proceeds from renting their gowns to city ministers on Sundays. We not only object to this, but many of the citizens are complaining of the sudden increase of high churchism on the part of their pastors, who never wore gowns before.

I therefore put this question to you to discuss and vote upon—shall we abolish gowns?"

The vote was unanimous. Gowns were vetoed forevermore. Enough garments were to be reserved from the amalgamated wardrobe, to become the property of the college, for graduation purposes and as a source of supply for the professors. The rest were to be auctioned by Shand.

The fire had gone dead out, the lamp wick was nought but sooty ashes, and I woke just in time to go to bed before the breakfast bell rang.

ANTI-GOWN.

Feb. 3rd, 1900.

DEAR GAZETTE.—I read with much pleasure an editorial in your last issue advocating the wearing of gowns in Dalhousie, and inviting correspondence on the subject. I haven't anything brilliant or new to say on the subject but would just like to express my entire approval of the sentiments you there expressed. I am heartily in favor of the re-adoption of gowns in Dalhousie, and I believe that if a vote were taken on this question of the whole body of students such a measure would be passed almost unanimously. I speak from knowledge, for I have quietly sounded a great many students on this subject.

When I entered Dalhousie I came here with it an understood thing that every student must have a cap and gown, and wear the same at lectures in the university. The whole body of students had their orders filed down at Clayton's for

one, and some of the lucky ones had them ready and wore them the first day of lectures. They looked fine in them but whether from extreme bashfulness or whether there was something suspicious about the ownership of the gowns they stayed most of the day in the gymnasium. I was very sorry to see the matter thus faced down by a few scoffers. But I haven't given up hope yet of proudly strutting up Spring Garden Road in my college cap and gown.

There is not the slightest question as to the dignity it would confer on the students and university as a whole. A citizen of this city in speaking to me a few days ago said that "without gowns Dalhousie is merely a larger High School to the outer world; with gowns Dalhousie would be a university."

By all means let the Senate decide that the words in our calendar "are entitled to wear gowns," be changed to "must provide themselves with caps and gowns." Then in order to reduce the extra expense (for it is largely a question of expense to those who oppose it) let them at the same time reduce the registration fee from four dollars to two. Push this matter along Mr. Editor.

PRO ABOLLA.

#### LOVE'S TRYSTING PLACE.

THOMAS O'HAGAN.

Love met me at the hill-top  
With glad and winsome smile,  
And held my fickle heart enchained—  
O, just a little while!

Love met me in the orchard  
'Neath a blossom-laden tree,  
And stormed my heart with longings—  
I once again was free.

Love met me where the cypress  
Is bound with sorrow's fears;  
I kneel in homage at thy shrine  
Thro' all the rip'ning years.

"From Songs of the Settlement and Other Poems."

DR. RABBITT of Columbia College is preparing a dictionary of college slang. He wishes to have the help of all students and college men throughout the United States in order to have as complete collection as possible. Such a work would doubtless be very interesting and instructive.



## COLLEGE NOTES.

FOR the last few weeks a good percentage of the students have been camping out on the common. The professors meanwhile have lectured to attentive audiences of benches.

ARRANGEMENTS for the Acadia-Dalhousie debate have been about completed. The event is to take place at Wolfville on March 16th. There will be three representatives on each side. It is thought that they will be able to present their respective cases to better advantage than could be done in the same time by a larger number of speakers.

THE University Glee Club is having some good practice under the able leadership of Mr. Shute; but the attendance is not as large as it should be. Among our three hundred and fifty or more students there surely must be more musicians than are to be seen in the Munro Room on Friday afternoons. It should not be necessary to commend a club of this nature to the students of a live University; and we trust that no one who can sing at all passably, will allow anything but duties to other societies or absolute lack of time, to interfere with attendance at the weekly practices.

## AMONG THE UNIVERSITIES.

THE Harvard club in New York has given Harvard a gift of \$25,000 with which to build a new boat house.

THE University of Chicago has received a New Year's gift of \$3,370,000. Half of this amount was donated by John D. Rockefeller, who has always contributed most liberally to the maintenance of the University.

HARVARD played eleven games this season, Princeton thirteen and Yale ten. Harvard scored 210 points and had 10 points scored against her. Princeton scored 185 to 21 against her and Yale 191 to 16 against her.

WHILE there has been, in general, a good deal of pro-Boer talk in the U. S., Harvard has, through her professors, left no room for doubt as to her British leaning. Of fifteen of her staff who were interviewed recently, eleven expressed opinions favorable to our cause.

THE subject chosen this year for annual intercollegiate debate between Harvard and Princeton was; "Resolved, That the English claims in the present controversy with the South African Republic are justifiable." Harvard supported the affirmative side of the question and won the debate.

TWO under-graduates of Yale have invented and patented a sub-marine arc light which promises to be of great service in the examining of sunken wrecks and in sub-aqueous exploration generally. One of the chief difficulties to be overcome in constructing a lamp of this kind was the complete exclusion of the water while the same time providing for the escape of the gasses generated in the arc. The device has passed a satisfactory test by the U. S. Marine Officials. The Governments of Great Britain, Germany and Russia are said to have each ordered a number of lights, and the inventors, Messrs. Hall and Burdick, are on the road to wealth and fame.

OUR Mathematical Students occasionally meet in their text-books questions originally set for the "tripsos" at Cambridge; and, after hearing two instructive and entertaining descriptions of that famous institution, will be interested in the report that the distinction senior wrangler is soon to be abolished. The reason for this move lies in the fact that the great strain of the work during the term and in the competitive examinations makes mental and physical wrecks of the more ambitious students. It is proposed as a remedy for this state of affairs to arrange the wranglers alphabetically so that none but the examiners may know who makes the highest marks of the year.

## College Societies.

THE first science meeting of the Delta-Gamma Society was held at Mrs. Forrests', Spring Garden Road, on Saturday, Jan. 20th. Only a small number were present, owing to the weather, which was unfortunate as the papers deserved a full meeting. "The History of Astronomy" by Miss M. A. O'Brien, was especially well-written, while papers by Miss Williams and Miss Cann received well-deserved praise.

ON Sunday, Jan 28th, ARCHBISHOP O'BRIEN lectured on "Evolution in its Relation to the Human Soul." He prefaced his lecture by a few remarks regarding the acquisition of knowledge of any kind: we must free ourselves of pre-supposition and a bias towards any particular view or set of beliefs; we must master the terminology of the special branch of learning which we are to investigate; we should not be bound by authority, for the goal is truth and only such statements are to be accepted as follow logically from indisputable facts. No theory is to be received or rejected because it is new, but its validity must be tested by its power to explain the facts with which it deals.

With this preface His Grace took up his theme. Evolution, he said, may be extreme or moderate. The extreme form would have it that everything now existent has simply developed according to natural laws; that the world was slowly formed and crystallized from the confused mass of vapor which pervaded all space. But a glance at this nebular hypothesis shows that it presupposes matter and energy; this explanation we must therefore regard as *incomplete* though not necessarily false.

A more moderate form of the evolutionary theory goes no farther than to hold that, given matter and energy, development is sufficient to explain the present condition of nature, organic as well as inorganic. This may be a legitimate explanation in the physical sphere but in the psychical as an explanation or account of the soul it breaks down. If there appears something different from matter, then matter cannot account for this something; only what was *implicit* becomes *explicit*, what has *evolved* must have been *involved*. We have the strongest evidence that the soul has qualities repugnant to matter; this evidence is to be found in man's reason the great thing which differentiates him from all the lower creation. Reason cannot be an evolving, a development of the instinct possessed by the lower animal, for the difference is not one of degree but of kind.

Man as Soul is the creature of an all-wise and all-powerful creator who is himself the *causa causarum* and from whom alone can be derived the characteristics that are distinctively those of rational and intelligent beings.

"Spiritual Vision" was REV. MR. MOSS's line of thought on Feb 4th. The gist of his well-chosen words he briefly put in Wordsworth's phrase:—

The Child is father of the Man,  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.

In our childhood days we idealize everything; trees, rocks, flowers, toys are all living things to us, all Nature is pulsating with life. But as we grow older we see things in a different way; the toys which were so full of life to the wee bairn are become dead, soulless things to the matter-of-fact urchin of twelve years and what was to the child so vividly alive has now been clothed in the cold garment of matter. And how much beauty the child sees that the man is blind to because he has lost this power of seeing the ideal behind the sensible and can find in the world about him only dead unresponsive matter. What we need is the power to see behind the

sensible, to see beauty in the inward essence rather than in outward form:—

"To me the meanest flower that blows, can give  
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears."

We need more of the child's way of seeing things; our Lord said that to see the inner realities of His eternal Kingdom we must become as little children and must have that spiritual vision which sees behind the phenomenal and apprehends the real, the essential, the immutable.

ON Feb. 1st., Hon. A. R. Dickey delivered a lecture under the auspices of Sodales in Orpheus Hall. Dean Weldon presided. Mr. Dickey's subject was "The British Empire and What it Means," a question which in these momentous times has even more than its usual significance to every Briton. The speaker said he did not pretend to give any new information on the subject; nor would he quote statistics; but it was well occasionally to call to mind the greatness of our heritage. The story of the beginnings and the growth of a mighty world power was told succinctly and well. The lecturer took issue with a writer on the British Empire who had asserted that its greatness was not due to any inherent quality in the people themselves. Britain's greatness as a sea power was primarily due to the dauntless enterprise of men like Drake and Hawkins, and to the spirit that enabled Englishmen in mere cockle shells to destroy the mighty armada. Mere "bigness" and might is not greatness; to-day our vast Empire stands and has stood for many years for freedom, for equity and justice, and in the main for the highest interests of mankind. A Briton is still a Briton no matter where born or how many leagues of land and sea may separate him from the motherland. No Londoner could be more loyal than we so-called "colonials" "We are the British Empire," and in sending out our sons to fight the Empire's battles we have taken a step which can never be retraced, and the results of which we believe will last and make for good through all successive time. The address was worthy of the theme and was thoroughly enjoyed by those who were present; but it must have been disheartening to the lecture committee, who had been put to considerable trouble and expense, in hiring and decorating the hall, as well as surprising to the lecturer, to see so few in attendance. Doubtless there were counter attractions in the city, but it looked as if the students generally had not co-operated with the committee as heartily as they should. The size of the audience was not commensurate with the importance of the subject or the reputation of the speaker.

THE regular meeting of the Students Medical Society was held on Friday evening, Feb. 9th. The lecturer of the evening, Dr. Sinclair. His subject was "Hypnotism." He reviewed the history of Hypnotism, from early times, explaining its real meaning, and giving interesting sketches of the different systems of the strange art, and also the founders of these systems. He showed that Hypnotism was the result of certain physiological causes and not the result of super-human or demoniacal agencies. The Doctor took up the objections to Hypnotism and refuted them. He showed that under proper hands not only could Hypnotism be accomplished, but it could be used as an instrument for good. He gave instances from the experiences of many reliable men, and from his own personal experience where Hypnotism was of real therapeutic value in the hands of the Physician and Surgeon. The lecture was listened to with the greatest attention. After a vote of thanks had been extended to Dr. Sinclair, the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

SODALES.—Notwithstanding counter-attractions, a Munro Room full of students on the evening of Feb. 15th, gave abundant proof of the popularity of PROF. C. MACDONALD. The subject of his lecture was "Prometheus" and his treatment of his theme displayed a "forethought" and carefulness only equalled by the sallies of humour, put in his own inimitable way, and by the vividness of the pictures drawn by an imagination capable of constructing such a well-contrived fabric of ideas. By the kindly aid of Prometheus, our entertainer and his friends were transported by rapid stages to the planet Jupiter, and there were found conditions corresponding in general to those of our diminutive sphere, yet differing widely in detail. The country, the people, their customs and exemplary virtue were depicted by Prof. MacDonald in terms which rendered them visible to all his audience, who hung upon his words and were sorry when a return of mother earth closed the series of vivid pictures. The Professor's welcome by the students was enthusiastic, and he may well feel that no one has a warmer place in our hearts than our honoured Professor of Mathematics.

### Personals

H. L. DICKEY, M. D., C. M., '98, has been appointed specialist on the staff of the Charlottetown Hospital.

R. E. FINN, LL. B., '98, accompanies the second contingent to South Africa as newspaper correspondent.

MISS ELIZA RITCHIE is in Italy. She has promised the GAZETTE a letter before she returns in the spring. So did P. M. Macdonald.

W. D. FORREST has gone to London, G. B., with other medicals, to prosecute his studies.

WE notice that L. P. D. Tilley, LL. B., '93, has entered into a law partnership with E. R. Chapman in the Palmer's Law Chambers, Princess Street, St. John, N. B.

D. H. MCKINNON, of the 4th year Arts, has been summoned home by the death of his brother from injuries accidentally received. The GAZETTE extends to Mr. McKinnon its sympathy.

K. G. T. WEBSTER is at Freizberg, Germany, this winter. One attraction is the fine old cathedral. A card from him with Xmas greeting contains a fine cut of it. He has promised to write.

DALHOUSIANS are not slow to strike out lines for themselves. C. Killam is at the Columbian University in Washington this winter, chiefly for the purpose of observing the actual working of Congress and the Senate.

A. F. McDONALD, M. A., LL. B., '94, left for Ottawa a few weeks ago to attend the session of the Federal Parliament. Mr. McDonald left in the interests of the "Morning Chronicle" and a syndicate of Canadian papers. He will not return to Halifax until May.

MELVILLE CUMMING, '97, has been attending the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. His friends will be glad to learn that his eyesight is much improved and that he will graduate from the "Farmers' College" this spring as B. S. A. He was at Harvard for some time last year.

DURING the last ten years eighteen Dalhousians have been in attendance at Harvard. All but two were Honours graduates, and most have the Bachelor's degree from Harvard as well as our own. Four have "made their doctor." The standing of all is good. It is a record worth thinking over.

THE friends and classmates of Stewart McPhee, LL. B., '97, will regret to learn of his death which took place at Hastings, C. B., on Jan. 22nd ult., from heart-disease. Mr. McPhee practised his profession for a short time at St. Peter's, C. B., but failing health induced him early in 1899 to accept the Treasurership of Richmond County, which he held up to the time of his death. During his college career, which was a creditable one indeed, he won the respect and friendship of professors and students, as in practice he secured the confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. His sterling qualities of mind and heart were such as will make his loss be deeply regretted.

### Dalhousiensia.

Prof. to class of one. — "I guess, Mr. J., we'll have to go up to the Common too."

B-NG-Y the Alleyite denies the report that he has bought a can-opener to shave with.

M-LL-R : (reading Chaucer) "The maidens got married and then they had no need of the bows."

Some of the Dalhousie students resident on a neighbouring hill, have developed a liking for lunches of hairpins.

K. F. and W. R. in concert: "I wonder what there is in the name Mackenzie to attract the ladies so much!"

PROF. (translating)—"I know of nothing ahead of a gallon measure."  
Ewen (ditto)—"You're talking nonsense, man."

*Prof. Classics.*—"This ode shows the ill effects of being in love."  
*Query.*—Why should he call on Roy to translate it?

A YOUNG lady student wishes some mathematician to work out the following: Which is the more "consequential" bargain—a khaki uniform (buttons included) or an annuity which shall amount to \$7,000?

*First young lady.*—"You can never judge a person's looks by his name."

*Second young lady.*—"Why yes you can! Look at Mr. Hand-m: Isn't he handsome by name and handsome by nature." Congratulations old boy.

PEARS-N to fair Dalhousian: "In a few years, when I get control of the I. C. R., I'll issue passes to all Dalhousie students."

(Young lady, laughing):—"You handle the truth very loosely, Mr. Pearson."

"LARGE crowds of appreciative spectators have attended the reviews on the Common.—[Daily paper.]

This probably accounts for the hiatus in many note books, and will shorten the "review" just before the exams.

#### THE WAIL OF BUSINESS MANAGER.

"I had a dream the other night,  
 When every thing was still;  
 I dreamed that each subscriber came  
 Right up and paid his bill."

#### E LIBRO RUBICUNDO.

*Dear Doctor,*—I never went to school much. I stayed home mostly, and read ancient history. I then came to Dalhousie. While here, I have not been conducting myself as well as I should have. Hoping the story of my life will please you. I remain, yours as ever, PARRSBORO.

THE below mentioned celebrities of this year's graduating class have been honored by the following titles, conferred on them in the Library:

Tern-n	"Dick Turpin."
M-dd-n	"Slippery Bill."
Matth-n	"Jesse James."
B-g.	"God of the Lower Regions."
All-s-n	"Whistling Rufus."
Daws-n	"Handy Andy."
Bl-ck-n	"Nicholas I."
R-y-ds	"Rip Van Winkle."
J-d-ne	"Di Parishuest."
F-l-y	"Pirate of Penzance."
H-le	"Peck's Bad Boy."
H-l	"Impecunious Davis."
P-rs-n	"The Agnostic."

EXCHANGES received this month:—Athenaeum, U. N. B. Monthly, Outlook, Queen's Journal, Argosy, Student, Merchistonian, Williamette, Oak Leaves, O. A. C., Excelsior, Acta Victoriana, O'Hara Review, Vanderbilt Observer, Trinity Review, McMaster Monthly.

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