

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

NEW SERIES—VOL. II.
OLD SERIES—VOL. IX.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER 25, 1876.

NEW No. 43
WHOLE No. 83.

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DALHOUSIE
GAZETTE.

NEW SERIES—VOL. II.
OLD SERIES—VOL. IX.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER 25, 1876.

NEW No. 1.
WHOLE No. 83.

CONVOCATION.

The semi-annual Convocation of our College took place on Monday, October 30th. After the usual procession from the college to the place of meeting, Assembly Hall, the Convocation was opened in the usual manner at three P. M. The Principal in his opening speech referred briefly to the absence of Sir William Young, President of the Board of Governors, from the last Convocation, congratulating him and the College upon his safe return; to the formation of the Senate of the University of Halifax; and to the addition to the college staff by the appointment of J. G. McGregor, D. Sc., Lecturer in Physics. He then called upon Prof. Johnson to deliver the Inaugural, which our readers may see for themselves. Dr. McGregor was then called upon. He spoke of the pleasure which it gave him to address the students, and went on to explain the peculiarly edifying spectacle which a German Professor's eyes and mouth would present to a believer in sectarian colleges, as some conception of the system of collegiate education which prevails in Nova Scotia, made way into his mind. He also alluded to the witticisms which the German students showered upon him on the same subject. At such times he could only hold down his head and listen, having neither reply nor defence to offer. He had hoped that the legislation of last session would have resulted in the establishment of one Central University but had been disappointed. The Chief Justice then took the floor. He referred briefly to his travels and after expressing his warm regard for, and interest in, students, he strongly urged upon them the necessity of directing much of their attention to the study of modern languages. He spoke of the pleasure to be derived from a knowledge of them in travelling through the various countries of Europe. He then mentioned the intention of the Board of Governors to endeavor to procure a hall sufficiently large for the meeting of Con-

vocation by placing a structure on the roof of the present building, as had been done on the college at Fredericton, N. B. He sat down amid much applause, after which the meeting was closed.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Mr. Principal, Ladies and Gentlemen,—For some years past great dissatisfaction has been felt with the existing state of University education in this Province, and different methods have been suggested for its improvement. In the expression of that dissatisfaction, the members of this University have taken a prominent part. They have time and again pointed out the deficiencies of all the colleges, and the waste of men and means involved in keeping up a number of universities out of all proportion to the wealth and population of the country. The people of the Province had, in fact, disregarded the homely proverb about "cutting one's coat according to one's cloth." and had contrived by snipping here, and patching there, to make half a dozen garments out of material that was barely sufficient for one comfortable coat, and with the natural result of spoiling all.

As a remedy for this state of things, a union of the several Arts Faculties, and their Establishment in Halifax as a new Provincial University was urged, and a couple of years ago the Governors of this College endeavored to obtain the consent of the other Colleges to a trial of the plan, but failed to do so. This year the Government took up the question. While yielding to the demands of the denominational colleges for increased grants, they apparently felt the necessity of proposing, at the same time, a scheme for the improvement of higher education. Their proposal opened up once more the whole University question, and the comparative advantages of Examining and Teaching Universities were discussed with unusual vigor in the press, on the platform, and in the Legislature. No

doubt a great deal of the keen interest taken in the subject arose, not so much from zeal for the improvement of University education, as from anxiety to protect denominational interests,—a very natural feeling, since so much has been done by the different sects to promote education. Still, making due allowance for this motive, all who are interested in University education, whatever their opinions, must, I think, have been gratified by the great ability and earnestness that were displayed in the discussion of the subject by the speakers and writers on both sides.

The method of improving the higher education of the country which the Legislature has adopted, is the erection of another University in addition to those with which the Province is already so highly favored. But this is of a different type from the others. For its working it needs no professors, no apparatus, no buildings of its own; and so has the doubtful merit of costing little to establish. It cannot, therefore, directly introduce into our University system those improvements which are so urgently required, greater subdivisions of subjects, better teaching, increased appliances; these the colleges are still left to their individual efforts to procure as best they can. But it is to induce the colleges to make these efforts that the new University has been established. As a means to this end, it proposes to promote competition among them, by drawing up a course of studies to which the teaching of all may conform, by holding examinations in this course, which shall be open to candidates from all the colleges, and by granting its degrees to such of the candidates as shall reach a certain standard of proficiency. To enable it to carry out this scheme, it trusts to the voluntary co-operation of the colleges, which has been promised by all but one. Our college has not taken this step without some misgiving. In the arrangement of its sessions, in its course and mode of instruction, and in its method of examination, it differs much from the rest; it has, therefore, a great deal to risk, and so far as can be seen, but little to gain. It has, however, consented to surrender its independent action, mainly, I believe, for these reasons. As it is a Provincial College, and as it receives a large annual grant from the Provincial Treasury, it did not think it proper to put itself in opposition to the will of the Province as expressed through the Legislature. After its constant advocacy, too, of University reform, it felt that it could not refuse a trial to the only scheme that the Legislature

deemed practicable at present. The friends of Dalhousie hoped also that the new University might be able to effect the object for which it was created, and ultimately lead to something better. Is it necessary to add, that having come to this determination, this College is further resolved to do its part to the best of its ability?

There is one clause in the new University Act which cannot be allowed to pass without a protest. It is that which forbids the Senate "to do or cause, or suffer to be done, anything that would render it necessary or advisable, with a view to Academic success or distinction, that any person should pursue the study of any materialistic or sceptical system of logic, or mental or moral philosophy." This extraordinary clause can only be matched, so far as I know, by one which Mr. Gladstone introduced into his unfortunate Irish University Bill, a few years back. But Mr. Gladstone was not content with a half-measure like this; he boldly and consistently excluded philosophy altogether, and modern history also, from the University course. By this provision, along with others in his Bill he hoped to gain the support of the Irish Roman Catholic Bishops, but only roused the indignation of some of his warmest supporters, and caused the defeat of his government. What meaning the framer of this clause attaches to the phrase "materialistic or sceptical logic," he alone can tell; to ordinary minds, "molecular" or "cosmical" are terms as applicable to logic as "materialistic" or "sceptical." Logic is a demonstrative, not a speculative science, and admits of materialistic or sceptical views just as much as mathematics. The word sceptical, as applied to Metaphysics, is not, however, devoid of meaning. But it is neither philosophical nor academic to condemn any set of opinions without attempting to answer them. A student trained in a course of philosophy thus restricted, may pass the philosophical examinations of the University of Halifax, but he would certainly be unable to meet the corresponding examinations of any College of repute in this subject, that I am acquainted with.

It would seem difficult to pronounce a very decided opinion on the result of establishing an Examining University here, as the experiment will be made under new and apparently unfavorable conditions. Enthusiastic supporters of the scheme, however, feel no such difficulty: they express a strong belief in the certainty of its success. This belief they generally base on an

argument, which seems likely to do their cause much harm, by raising expectations which cannot possibly be realized. This is their argument. Taking the University of London, and even the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, as examples of the working of systems similar to that of Halifax University, they point to their great success and high reputation, and thence conclude off-hand that the new University may be expected to be equally successful, and to enjoy a similar high character. The argument seems to me fallacious.

As for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, they have little or no bearing on the question. They form a peculiar class by themselves; it is their boast that nothing like them is to be found elsewhere. They possess large staffs of professors in all the Faculties and cannot therefore be considered as Examining Universities in the strict sense of the term. The Colleges, however, have so absorbed their Universities that the latter have scarcely any independent existence, and their Professors are allowed but a small share in the education of students. For all practical purposes, the Colleges may be considered the Universities. Before, therefore, any argument for the success of Halifax University can be drawn from the examples of Oxford and Cambridge, some degree of equality must be shewn to exist between their Colleges and those of Nova Scotia. But will any one venture to compare our poor Colleges with their few and scanty prizes to the wealthiest collegiate corporations in the world, which spend every year in rewards for the encouragement of learning half as much again as the entire public revenue of this Province?

As, however, the University of Cambridge has been mentioned, a change that has recently been made in its College system, may be referred to here, from which our Colleges may draw a lesson for themselves. Up to a few years ago the Tutors of each College, who might be two or more in number, were supposed to prepare its students in all the subjects required for the University examinations, though in reality a great part of the teaching was carried on by another class of men, without any official position, called private tutors. The absurdity of so many colleges, (there are 17 in Cambridge,) doing each precisely the same work, whether its students were few or many, at last dawned on the minds of the Governing Bodies. A new arrangement, styled the Intercollegiate system, was accordin-

gly introduced, by which neighboring Colleges have agreed to distribute among themselves the different subjects of the University Course, so that a student may be taught Classics in one College, Mathematics in another, and so on. This combination of the teaching staff of several Colleges for greater efficiency, is in principle the arrangement that the Colleges in this Province have been so often urged to adopt, except that as the students could not possibly go to the Colleges, these or rather their Arts' Faculties should come to the student, and form a new University in Halifax.

Let me now take up the argument already mentioned, as it applies to the University of London, which has been taken as a model for the new University. I will endeavour to shew that there are important differences between the two cases, and that the University of Halifax will be embarrassed by difficulties which its model did not encounter; and that it cannot therefore count on obtaining the same success.

The first London University, as it was commonly called, though it possessed no University charter, was established to supply a widely-felt want, and to remove an injustice to English Dissenters, by enabling them to receive the benefits of a liberal training, from which they were previously debarred; for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, which possessed a monopoly of university education, were then closed against all who refused to subscribe the thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England. A few years afterwards the present London University was organized as an Examining University, to which the former London University, now University College, and a large number of other colleges and schools in the United Kingdom were attached. The connection, however, was purely nominal, since the University is entirely separate from and independent of the Colleges. By this system not merely a liberal education, but degrees were brought within the reach of many, both Churchmen and Dissenters, who would otherwise have been unable to procure them.

It must be remembered, too, that all who wish to obtain an English University degree, and are unable or unwilling from any cause to study for one at Oxford or Cambridge, are obliged to enter the University of London. They have no option; there is no other university in England that can grant degrees, (Durham need not be taken into account), for University charters are granted much more sparingly in England and in

Europe generally than on this continent, where any College can have one for the asking. In all these respects London University differs materially from the University of Halifax. The latter addresses itself to no new class of students; it practically offers no greater facilities for obtaining a degree than exist at present, and it has no share in a monopoly of University powers, for even its own affiliated colleges, not to mention others, may at any moment exercise their right of conferring degrees.

In the next place, the University of London was able from the beginning to insist on a high standard of excellence being reached by candidates for its degrees, because it could rely upon a supply of well trained students from University College, and from other excellent colleges connected with itself. The University of Halifax is in a very different position. It has been created for the express purpose of improving the higher education of the Province, which is thus implied to be in an unsatisfactory state. The only means at present placed at its command for effecting this object is the offer of a degree which shall be considered more valuable than those of the existing Universities, because it will be based on higher qualifications. But as it is obvious that these qualifications cannot be possessed by the majority of students, the task set to the University somewhat resembles that of a man who is required to lift himself by pulling at his boot straps. A high standard for a degree can easily be set up: a few strokes of the pen, and the work is done. But if that standard be attainable by only a few candidates, it will defeat its own purpose, either by driving away a large number of students to other Universities, or by deterring them from studying for a degree altogether. It is tolerably certain, therefore, that for a few years the standard of the new University will not be higher than the best of those which it will displace. Is there any possibility of its being lower? Yes, and for this reason. If the study of one subject in one college be carried much farther than in the rest, some compromise would have to be made, for the latter might fairly protest against the sudden adoption of the high standard of the former as an injustice to their students. Or, again, some branch of learning which is not studied in all the colleges—Modern History for example—may be omitted from the new course, which would thus be at least less comprehensive than some of the old. A rise in the standard of a degree cannot there-

fore take place at once; it can properly only follow a general improvement in the education given not only in our Colleges, but also in our High Schools and Academies. The competition of the Colleges and the late increase in their Provincial grants may produce some effect, but if a few years hence, when the improvement, should there be any, is beginning to be seen, the Legislature steps in and withdraws, as it proposes, all College grants, without taking further steps to keep up that improvement, the system will run great risk of utter collapse.

Supposing now that a course of study has been fixed, which is satisfactory to all the Colleges, the Senate now finds itself face to face with the difficulty of obtaining properly qualified Examiners. The University of London has a great advantage over it in this respect, for the Professors and distinguished graduates of the English, Irish and Scotch Universities furnish a large number of men to choose Examiners from, whose ability and impartiality no one would venture to doubt. In this Province, however, it will not be easy to find suitable persons outside the Professors of the affiliated Colleges, and to their appointment as Examiners there are serious objections. Apart from the likelihood of both their capacity and fairness being called in question, a Professor of one College may know little or nothing of the methods of instruction in others, or of the standard reached there, in the subject in which he has been appointed examiner: for however strictly the amount of knowledge required may be defined in the University course, there is always room for great variety in the style of teaching. And thus, when appointed an Examiner, he may not be in a position to do justice to the students of other Colleges. This difficulty must exist, of course in a certain degree whenever the duties of teaching and examining are entrusted to distinct persons, and is a great objection to that system; but it would be aggravated in the case I have supposed, because some of the candidates, being pupils of the examiner, would have a great advantage over their fellows. Curious results are sometimes produced by this system. In the University of Toronto an inexperienced examiner on one occasion gave an examination paper, which had as much connection with the class lectures, as the moon with the state of the weather; of course the students protested, and the questions had to be hurriedly changed. On the other hand, clever teachers are occasionally deferred from

bringing before their students the latest results in science or scholarship if the knowledge of the examiners is believed to be behind the times. I have myself as a student been deliberately taught by my private tutor antiquated opinions on some points of scholarship, because they were known to be those held by my Examiner. These difficulties are not much felt in the home Universities wherever the system exists, because two or more examiners are generally appointed for each subject, who are seldom the teachers of any of the candidates. The examinations, too, generally follow tolerably well-defined lines, and as the questions are subsequently published, teachers and candidates can ascertain what kind of an examination may be expected in any subject, and can prepare accordingly. Here, on the contrary, entirely different styles of examination may be now employed in the several Colleges, and as no Examination Papers have been published by any College but our own, our Professors and students have no means of knowing what standard would be required by an Examiner taken from another College, while the only standard which Professors of other Colleges can know besides their own is that of Dalhousie. Might not a way out of these difficulties be found by appointing two Examiners for each subject, in order that their peculiarities may neutralize each other, and by taking the Examination Papers published by this College, with the necessary modifications, as a sort of common standard to teach and examine by, until the new University gradually forms a standard of its own? This latter suggestion, I feel, is liable to misconstruction, as savoring of self-assertion on the part of this College; but it is certainly not so intended. I may be told, too, that a higher degree of excellence in some branch is reached in this or that College; granted; but it cannot well be taken into account by an Examiner who has no means of knowing of its existence.

It has been sufficiently shown that the path of the University of Halifax is by no means a smooth one; that there are stumbling blocks in its way, which may trip it up, and that consequently it is impossible to speak so confidently as some do of the certainty of its success. The difficulties it must encounter, have been dwelt on at rather tedious length, to show that too much should not be expected from it, especially at first. The task that has been laid on it is not light; it will require for its accomplishment unusual care and judgment on the part of the

Senate, the mutual accommodation of the representatives of the Colleges, the indulgence, perhaps, of the Professors, and in addition to all these, time. If a satisfactory solution of its difficulties shall be discovered, it may render good service to the higher education of the Province, and thus procure for itself a certain measure of success, though far short of that of the University of London; just as the Dominion House of Commons does good and useful work, though, from the nature of the case, it cannot attain to the influence and reputation of its English namesake on which it has been modelled. Its Senate and Convocation will form, as it were, a University Parliament, at whose meetings important questions affecting higher education will be raised, and the different views of its members ascertained and discussed, and in this way the interest taken in such subjects will be concentrated and deepened. Its examinations will be a touchstone to reveal the merits and defects of our different Colleges, and the result will lead their Governors and Professors to exert themselves to maintain the one and remove the other. It will promote a wholesome and generous rivalry among all students, and will provide an arena wherein they can test each other's mental powers in a contest both more noble and more in harmony with the proper objects of University training than the Intercollegiate boat-races, cricket matches, and athletic sports, which are so common now-a-days, however admirable and deserving of encouragement these may be in themselves. An old Etonian once said of his school, that he had learnt only two things there—to play cricket and eat fat mutton. This reproach at least cannot be brought against any Nova Scotian College.

As we are on the brink, then, of so complete a change in the University system of the Province, it may not be amiss on the present occasion to point out the progress that has been made by this College since its re-organization, and to mark the position it holds at the close of this, the first stage of its new existence.

It is well known that it had many disadvantages to contend against in the beginning. Its ill reputation in the past, caused by repeated failures, hung for a time like a millstone round its neck. It met with active hostility or cold dislike from all the religious denominations save one. Its endowment, small enough in itself, appeared still smaller when compared with the

(Continued on page 9.)

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOVEMBER 25, 1876.

EDITORS.

J. McD. SCOTT, '77. J. H. CAMERON, '78.
W. SCOTT WHITTIER. EDMUND CROWELL, '79.
H. H. HAMILTON, *Secretary.*

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NOTICE.

The Finance Committee are determined to send the Paper punctually, and to the right address. If any subscriber fails to receive the "Gazette" regularly, he will oblige by sending information of the same.

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HOWARD H. HAMILTON,
Financial Secretary,
Dalhousie College,
Halifax.

THE changing seasons have again brought with them the opening of a new session, and the first issue of a new volume of the GAZETTE. The staff of a college paper is, as our readers know, as changeful as the seasons; we resemble our predecessors, doubtless, in our main features, yet are we different. This, though a decided disadvantage in the financial department, cannot, we suppose, if college papers are of any benefit at all, be considered as an objection in the literary; what we lose in consistency, we gain in variety; what we lose in practice and experience, we gain in freshness; what we lose in maturity, we gain in that peculiar interest which attaches to our position as students. It shall be ours, as in the past, to watch and record everything which may affect the progress of education, especially

of collegiate education, within our sphere of action; and to act as a medium of communication—open both ways, be it remembered—between the students and their friends outside.

In neither of these respects does our position differ materially from that of our predecessors. The "College Question" will not likely be so interesting as it was last winter, nor call for so much of our attention. The University of Halifax has become a recognized fact, has assumed to itself "a local habitation and name," and will probably require little notice on our part, at least until the publication of its Calendar. We have often regretted that the Provincial Government, instead of forming a paper university embracing only Nova Scotia, did not make some effort towards the formation of one for the whole Dominion; it would not only be attended with many more advantages, but would be scarcely at all affected by the difficulties which most seriously threaten the prosperity of the University of Halifax. But regrets are vain. We are glad that all the members of the Senate have taken hold of the work so vigorously and enthusiastically even, notwithstanding the unfavourable attitude of the Baptist body. We might also allude in passing to the addition lately made to the teaching staff of our College. Of the honors which Dr. McGregor has won, of the testimonials he has received, our readers have already heard. Our governors have done wisely and well in securing his services as lecturer in the department in which he has gained such renown.

But the primary function of a college paper is to act as a means of communication between students and outsiders. To do this effectively several things are necessary. In the first place the students must assist us by frequent contributions. Your articles must come pouring in upon us. Hitherto they have had altogether too much of those qualities generally believed to appertain to angels' visits. Every one can do something. Make the attempt. The time will not be wasted, far from it. Especially will the time not be wasted if it be spent in polishing

your writing. An hour or two of every day for a fortnight, spent on one short article, retouching, remodelling, pruning or filling in, softening one expression here, or strengthening another there will do you more real good than if you should write ten times as much. Polish cannot of course take the place of genius, but it is a most efficient aid to it. It adds a large percentage to its market value. The best styles owe much to polish. John Foster is said to have spent a whole night on a single sentence. What can be finer or more inimitable than the "Essays of Elia." Undoubtedly Lamb's most impromptu style as seen in his letters, exhibits great freedom, copiousness of vocabulary and delicate humor; but it lacks that soft brilliancy, that peculiar and so indescribable flavor, which makes the essays renowned,—that comes from polish. But enough of this. The second thing is that every article should be so marked that its author may be known. Our friends often complain that they have no means of knowing whose productions they are reading; and thus an article which would be deeply interesting if they knew something of the author, is hurriedly glanced over and soon forgotten. Anonymous letters are generally read with little pleasure. We like to trace an author in his work, more especially if that author be a friend. We are aware that this has not been the general custom with contributors to the GAZETTE, but it is common with our Exchanges, articles being marked sometimes with the writer's name in full, sometimes with the initials only. For an article so marked the writer is of course responsible, and will call for a much more sparing use of our discretionary power than such as appear anonymously.

We have said that this communication is open both ways, and we hope both classes will take advantage of it. Graduates and former students will please remember that that they are twice reckoned, included both in the class of students and in the class of outsiders. Upon them, therefore, devolves the double duty of aiding us in both capacities; of giving us, as friends, ad-

vice and encouragement, and of furnishing us, as students, with literary contributions. Those who have aided us so substantially in the past, will, we hope and trust, be equally mindful of us in the future. The GAZETTE is indebted in no slight measure, to their support and assistance. Those who have neglected us, will attend, we hope, to the smiting of conscience which we are quite sure they feel, and hereafter be more attentive to this important duty. For ourselves we can make no promises, save the common and rather vague one, of doing our best.

OUR Societies have all resumed, and give promise of more than usual vigour, though several of our most active fellows of last winter are missing.

"Mourn, ilka grove the cushat kens!
Ye haz'lly shaws and briery dens!
Ye burnies, wimplin' down your glens
Wi' toddlin' din,
Or foaming strang wi' hasty stens,
Frae lin to lin.

"Thou autumn wi' thy yellow hair,
In grief thy fallow mantle tear!
Thou winter, hurling thro' the air
The roaring blast,
Wide o'er the naked world declare
The worth we've lost!"

With efficient committees, however, and considerable new talent, interest is not likely to flag. The increased attention given to sports deserves special mention and encouragement. Regular exercise, prudently taken, is demanded to face down the opinion that college life is injurious to health—starves the body to feast the mind—is a dreary process of manufacturing flesh into knowledge. In too many cases fact upholds this charge. While attending to mental polish, rust is permitted to gnaw into the physical machinery. There are signs of an abatement of this evil. Already the Football Club has played several exciting games on the old grounds, and an arrangement has been made by which students may again have the benefit of instruction and practice in the gymnasium of the E. C.

Association. This is well and possibly nothing more should be desired; yet why might not a Rowing Club be organized? It is somewhat remarkable that in Halifax, justly celebrated for able oarsmen, the capital of the first shipowning Province in the greatest naval Empire of all history, with a peerless harbour inviting us every day to a tilt on the tumbling wave, beyond the noise, profanity, smoke, and social attractions of the city, this favorite college sport has been so long ignored. The exercise is admittedly one of the very best. Boats to suit present requirements can be had on easy terms, or should the racing demon get abroad, Dalhousie might then get suitable boats for that purpose, and push to the fore some men not unworthy the best blades of leading British and American Universities.

Some improvements have been made during the summer in the internal appearance of the College Building. The rooms and hall have been nicely painted, presenting an almost resistless temptation to the pencils of our aspiring artists. Prof. Lawson's spacious class room has been divided into three separate apartments. It now includes a lecture room, a laboratory, and library. The reading room also has been reopened for the use of students. By a liberal application of paint to its shelves and walls it has been transformed into quite a respectable looking place. Moreover a table has been put therein, no doubt by the liberality of the Governors, extensive enough to receive all the gowns in College.

A large and energetic committee has been appointed, under whose special care, keeping, and protection the room is to be for the winter. We hope they will see to it that within its sacred (?) precincts everything shall be kept decent and in order.

Nova Scotia has nothing like the monster cave of Kentucky, about which a valuable article from one who displays great industry in noting

facts and details, is coming out in the *Illustrated London News*; yet we know of one at least worthy of the explorer's torch and tape. Comparatively few are aware of its existence, though its dimensions compare favourably with any of New England's granite caverns in which it has been our misfortune and satisfaction to be lost and found.

From Shubenacadie a comfortable ride with the sociable and gentlemanly proprietor of the Express brings the tourist to the ambitious village of South Maitland. A flank movement over hills and flats, among braes and bushes, soon terminates at an unpromising black spot in the side of a bluff at whose foot growls the Five Mile River. We will not now attempt any description of what nature has there shrouded in ebon shades:—the pits left half finished—no bottoms put in them; the great hall where you may for hundreds of yards wander straight on among honeycombed rocks; the glassy, pellucid little lakes far beyond the power of summer's heat or winter's cold and never moved by Aura's dimpling breath. We hope that our patrons when they go pleasuring may always have as unmixed enjoyment as an afternoon spent in this cave afforded us.

LIKE chicks to dooryards, students have flocked to their winter quarters eager for crumbs. We have as yet no figures from abroad, but understand that Sackville and Acadia are up to their average, while circumstances have combined to swell the ranks of King's. Dalhousie has, we believe, about fifty undergraduates and a large number of generals, but it is too soon yet to reckon with exactness. These include, as usual, men of every variety of creed. There are twenty-seven attending lectures in the Halifax Medical School.

OWING to circumstances over which we had no control, the issue of the first number of the GAZETTE has been delayed longer than usual this year.

(Continued from page 5.)

views of the Governors, who showed a happy audacity in starting the University on so ambitious a scale with such slender means. Its scientific apparatus too, fell far short of the requirements of science at the present day; and library, there was none. The short space of thirteen years has witnessed a great change for the better. The College has not only lived down its former evil reputation, but has also made for itself some name among its competitors. Though it has failed to gain the goodwill of some sects, it has at least caused itself to be respected by all. The number of students has been more than doubled of late years, and as a consequence its Provincial grant has been trebled. By the liberality of private benefactors, considerable additions have been made from time to time to its apparatus, but very much is still required to provide the department of Experimental Physics with a proper equipment. By the same means a carefully chosen library has been formed: but the number of books is still too small to preclude the possibility of our receiving, should a similar occasion arise, the answer that is said to have been once given to a College deputation by a member of the Government of Ontario. Some Professors waited on the Minister to ask for a grant in aid of their College Library. "How many books are there now in your Library?" asked the Minister. "About 30,000 volumes," was the reply. "What!" cried the Minister in amazement, "you have 30,000 books and you want more! Why you cannot have read all those yet!"

Such, then, is the present condition of our College, as contrasted with that of its early years. But to form a proper estimate of its position as a University, we must compare it, not merely with its former self, but with the Canadian Colleges of to-day. Comparisons are proverbially odious, I am aware; but the proverb, it is hoped, will not hold good in the present instance, for I will take as a standard of comparison McGill College, a College that is admittedly superior to all in the Maritime Provinces. McGill, like our own College, is unsectarian, but more fortunate than ours, it enjoys the confidence, and receives the support of all Protestant denominations in the Province of Quebec, and four Theological Schools in Montreal, those of the Church of England, and the Presbyterian, Wesleyan and Congregational Churches, send their students to its Arts lectures. It has also a considerable advantage

over this College by its larger endowment, better equipment, and by the greater attractions in the shape of scholarship and prizes that it can offer students. Notwithstanding these advantages in its favor, a comparison of numerical results will show that this College is not so far behind it, as might beforehand have been expected. In the ten years, during which we have granted degrees, 71 of our students have graduated in Arts, while McGill has sent forth 120 graduates in the same Faculty; and while the number of students in the Faculty of Arts in McGill College last year, which was its most prosperous one, amounted to 113 in Arts and 25 in the School of Applied Science, 101 students attended the Arts' classes of Dalhousie, which form its only course. It may be supposed that this large number has been obtained only by special efforts on our part; this is not the case: on the contrary, some friends of the College think that the Governors and Professors are rather backward in making known to the public the advantages afforded by it.

If a comparison were drawn between this College and the Denominational Colleges of Canada, the result would be very much in our favor. In fact, Dalhousie in number of students in Arts, stands third among Canadian Colleges. The test of numbers, I admit, is but a rough method of judging of the comparative standing of Colleges, but the result of the test at all events proves, I think, that Dalhousie has made a fair use of the means at its command.

It does not become me to express any opinion on the quality of the education given here. On this point those who are familiar with the subjects usually taught in Universities can judge for themselves, by comparing our Curriculum with the published Examination Papers, provided they give the Examiners the credit of intending these papers as real tests of the knowledge and abilities of the candidates, and not for show. (Our students, who ought to be good judges, have no doubts about this, though possibly a few of them might like a little more show and less reality.) To those who cannot fathom such mysteries, I may point out, as evidence of the benefits received here, the position already taken by some of our students and graduates in the different professions, and in the various occupations of life. I may be pardoned for specially referring to one, who, having added to a distinguished career here a still more distinguished career abroad, has just returned to take a posi-

tion amongst us, that places his talents at the service of his *Alma Mater*.

Besides discharging its proper duties, this College has also indirectly benefited education in several ways. For example, many of the Academies and Common Schools have been supplied with well qualified masters from the ranks of our students, and their improved teaching has had an appreciable effect in helping to raise the standard of education throughout the country. It has, also, been of some service to the Denominational Colleges. Besides furnishing them with an effective weapon for stirring up denominational feeling in their behalf, it has, unintentionally certainly, been the cause of their obtaining considerable additions to their grants; for no one, I think, can deny that these would not have been given, had not this College previously received increased aid on account of its increased efficiency. They have good reason, therefore, to be pleased with its success, but the Legislature has dealt hardly with it in including it in the penal consequences of their attack on the Provincial Treasury. For if all grants to Colleges be withdrawn four years hence, as the Legislature proposes, the success of this College may possibly have been its ruin, since it has no denominational zeal to fall back on for support.

In thus setting forth the services which this College has rendered to the cause of education, I hope I have not overstepped the bounds of modest statement. My object will have been gained if I have succeeded in showing that Dalhousie College has deserved well of the people of Nova Scotia.

CITY VERSUS COUNTRY.

It seems to be a favourite exercise of some authors to praise the quietness and contentment of country life, and enlarging on its many attractions, go on to extol the beauty of rural scenes, the simplicity of rural manners and the healthfulness of rural occupations, until their very soul seems ravished as they tell of sylvan bowers, green meadows, rippling rills, lowing herds, singing birds, milk maids' songs, ploughboys' whistle, waving grain, many tinted leaves, and fragrance breathing flowers; and as we read their descriptions we wonder that they do not cast their pens and manuscripts to the moles and the bats, buy a pair of No. 10 clod-hoppers' boots, an axe and a hoe, and take up their abode

in a log cabin in the backwoods, instead of eking out an existence in the city by writing stories and songs.

The truth of the matter is they never saw the country, except perhaps in cheap landscape paintings, where, as everybody must have noticed, all the houses are pretty brown stone edifices, surrounded by trees tall and straight, their branches loaded with fruit very large and red. The grass in these pictures is sometimes green but not unfrequently it is red, and often yellow. A brook (gurgling of course) passes close by. Away in front of the house is a meadow with cattle in it, represented as lowing, although the reason of their so doing surrounded by such rich pasture is not evident to all. In a convenient corner a rustic gate is placed. As there is no fence in connection with it, we might think that it was put there for ornament only, but as a youth and a maiden are making love across the bars we must conclude that it had been erected for their special accommodation.

Or perhaps some of these writers may have dashed through the country at the heels of the iron horse, and as distance in itself lends enchantment to the view, add to this the luxury of a comfortable seat in a smoking car and a cigar, and we can see that they, referring their outward sensations to their inward consciousness, could easily persuade themselves that beauty and content reigned supreme around them. In summer, during the trouting season many visitants from the cities frequent our lakes and rivers for the purposes of angling. At this time of the year every shrub and tree appears fresh and green, and the deformities of nature are covered as with a garb. Again in the fall when the frosts of autumn have changed the green of summer to yellow and gold, city sportsmen scour our forests in search of game. At these periods the country looks best, and to those urbane visitors, free from business cares, and come to the country for a few days with the purpose of having a good time, country life seems delightful, and they go their ways to tell the same to every friend and write it in their diaries.

But some of us have lived long enough out of town to know some facts which will hardly harmonize with the music of the above mentioned class of writers. It is much pleasanter in cold stormy January weather to trip along a cleanly swept sidewalk unmolested by Boreas blast, to the nearest church which is but a stone's throw off, than to flounder through snow to the

country church a half a dozen miles away; it is easier to run off to the grocery at the first street corner than, by the most primeval mode of locomotion scale the snow-banks to the nearest country store, at the same time the north wind sweeping direct from the pole, roaring about your path as if threatening vengeance on you for your audacity in venturing outside your snow buried cot.

Horace has a satire setting forth the convenience of a country retirement in opposition to the troubles of a life in town, and tells the story of the city mouse and country mouse in illustration, but the poet had just received the present of a farm and wished to show his gratitude to the donor. Had he witnessed a scene which a friend once described to me, and which happened at a farmhouse he would probably have written one satire more. It was thus related:—"As I approached the place I found my entrance impeded by a trio of huge probosciferous brutes, that were carrying on things pretty much as they pleased about the premises. One having inserted its head into a bucket was rushing about at a rate of velocity that greatly endangered the equilibrium of every moveable object that came in his way. Another was amusing himself by turning bottom up some kitchen utensils that stood about. A third, having declared war against the door of the building, was making vigorous assaults thereon, and at length broke it open, when a large bull dog within, taking this as an insult to his dignity, and an invasion of his domain, furiously resented the intrusion, nor could the master of the domicile part the combatants, till having seized the canine by that particular part which any man in similar circumstances would have grasped at, he used him as the robber did Hercules' oxen, *aversum canem cauda in domum traxit*. "This scene," says she, "disagreeable enough in itself, was rendered still more so by the crying and hooting of children, and other trivial occurrences unnecessary to mention, so that after that time I received all praises of country life at a liberal discount."

Quietness is spoken of as one of the charms of country life. That claim indeed, were a just one, but that quietness is like almost everything else, we may have too much of it. In many rural districts there is so much absolute dulness, and such absence of all means of entertainment, that the young and restless very often wander away to seek amid the bustle and excitement of city life,

what was lacking at home, and are not unfrequently led into dissipation and ruin as the result.

We fear some of these sentimental writers would find rustication rather tedious in the absence of concerts, theatres, lectures, public libraries, and reading rooms, nor would the scarcity of whiskey be a smaller evil in the estimation of some of them.

The healthfulness of rural occupations we will not wait to dispute, but we would like as we conclude, to remind those scribblers that, although Burns was a poet, there is very little poetry, *per se*, in following the plough, turning up rocks, or in mowing down hay, and we rest assured that after a six months' experience of them, they would forsake them and cry out with Hamlet,

"Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life?"

C.

OUR EXCHANGES.

Both of our Nova Scotian contemporaries, the *Acadia Athenæum* and the *Argosy* (modest for *Eurhetorian Argosy*), are resplendent in new dresses this season. The *Argosy* for November in its leading editorial, gives this advice to students troubled with vanity:—

"Take out your brain, take out your soul, whenever you get a chance—Wash them in the brook—Turn them in your fingers—Toss them in the sunbeam—Touch up their dull spots—Lop off their excrescences—Make them bright, smooth, plump. Then, fellow-students, will you be able to slide yourselves along from field to field of knowledge, with no encumbering spider-legs to trip you on the fences.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Prof. DeMill, \$6; E. Boreham, \$1.50 Prof. McKnight, \$1; Geo. Fulton, N. Stewiacke, \$1; Rev A. Simpson, \$1; C. S. Cameron, \$1; R. McKay, \$1; A. Dickie, \$1; J. L. George, \$1; H. H. Hamilton, \$1; J. R. Fitzpatrick, \$1; C. Pitblado, \$1; J. Waddell, \$1; A. McPhee, West Bay, \$1;

FOR 1875-6.

J. McG. Stewart, B. A. \$20; H. W. Barnes \$20 H. H. Hamilton, \$5; R. E. Chambers, \$4; W. Scott Whittier, \$4; J. R. Fitzpatrick, \$2; J. Waddell, \$2; Ed. Crowell, \$2; J. H. Cameron, \$2; F. W. Archibald, \$2; J. M. Scott, \$2; James McKenzie, \$2; F. W. Smith, \$2; B. McKittrick, \$2; Richd. Logan, \$2; B. McKay, \$2; J. A. Cairns, \$2; Geo. A. Laird, \$2; W. R. Grant, \$2; Isaac McLean, \$2; M. McGregor, \$2; G. McQueen, \$2; A. Dickie, \$2; H. H. Whittier, \$2; C. S. Cameron, \$2; C. Pitblado, \$2; W. F. Kennedy, \$2; R. Emmerson, \$1; J. L. George, \$1;

Personals.

OUR GRADUATES OF CLASS '76.—We are glad to know that several of our Graduates of last Session occupy high positions in the teaching profession in this Province. J. W. McLeod, is Principal of Lunenburg Academy. G. H. Fulton fills the same Post in Guysborough, and J. S. Morton in the Shelburne Academy.

J. McG. Stewart, and F. H. Bell, ex-Editors of the GAZETTE, are studying Law in this city.

Isaac McDowall, has devoted himself to the work of enlightening the youth of St. John, N. B. Jas. A. McLean and John Munro are pursuing the study of Theology; the former at the Presbyterian Seminary in this city, the latter at Montreal.

J. H. Sinclair, a junior of last Session, wears out long days and rods in the village school at Sherbrooke.

I. L. Archibald, Junior, Class '76 is absent this winter on account of ill health. We hope he may soon recover.

T. A. Le Page, Soph. of '75, has obtained a situation as teacher in Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

R. H. Humphrey, Soph. of '75, is a clerk in the office of S. Cunard & Co., in the city.

McLeod, a member of last session's Freshman Class, was expected back again this fall, but he has married a wife, and therefore he cannot come. He is at present living in the city. He evidently came to the conclusion that it is not good for man to be alone.

Ralph M. Hunt, a Freshman of Class '75, has deserted us and gone to Acadia.

Our Societies.

THE Annual Students' Meeting was held in the College on Friday morning, Nov. 3rd. On motion, W. S. Whittier took the chair. The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:—

President, W. S. Whittier; Vice Pres., Colin Pitblado; Sec. and Treas., B. McKittrick; General Committee, G. A. Laird, J. A. McKenzie, Rod. McKay.

The following gentlemen were then chosen as a Committee in accordance with a suggestion made by Rev. G. M. Grant to have special charge of the Reading Room during the present session:—J. S. Murray, Convener; R. E. Chambers, S. T. McCurdy, G. A. Laird, J. McD. Scott, F. W. Archibald. Officers of Foot-ball Club:—Pres., H. H. Hamilton; Sec. and Treas., S. T. McCurdy; Captains, R. E. Chambers, G. A. Laird.

The GAZETTE business was then attended to. In the absence of the Financial Secretary for last year, J. McG. Stewart, B.A. presented the Report, which was adopted.

GAZETTE Staff for the coming year: Editors, J. McD. Scott, W. S. Whittier, J. H. Cameron, Edwin Crowell; Financial Committee, F. W. Archibald, E. L. Newcomb, Howard Murray, Chas. S. Cameron; Fin. Sec., Howard H. Hamilton.

THE Kritosopian Society met on Friday evening, Nov. 3rd. The attendance was large, and we have every prospect that the present session will be a prosperous one. The meetings are held every Friday evening and are attended by third and fourth year students. At these meetings we have alternately debates and original essays. We hope that every member of this Society will make it a point to be present, and take part in the discussions and essay writing. The training is the most useful and practical that we receive during our College Course.

The following are the officers for the present session:—John McD. Scott, (4th year) President; J. H. Cameron, (3rd year) Vice Pres.; F. W. Archibald, (4th year) Sec. and Treas.; B. McKittrick, Jas. McKenzie, F. W. Archibald, Gen. Committee.

EXCELSIOR ORGANIZED.—Officers, E. Crowell, President; R. McKay, Vice Pres.; H. H. Whittier, Sec. and Treas.; G. R. McQueen, W. R. Fraser, and H. McIntosh, Committee.

The question, "Which is the better form of Government, a Monarchy or a Republic?" was discussed and decided in favor of Monarchy. The attendance was large and the meeting interesting.

Dallusiensia.

THE Professors' Scholarships have been gained this year by Mr. Murray, New Glasgow High School, and Mr. Fraser, private study.

OLD Sam Symons is not yet forgotten, and still, occasionally its wailing notes can be heard, stealing through the key hole into the class room, or creeping upstairs into the region of higher mathematics, much to the disgust of the Professors, who no doubt think it is time for Old Sam to be played out.

WHEN a Soph. begins the proof of a proposition in Geometry with a "therefore," the Professor generally interrupts him before he can proceed much further.

THAT Saratoga girl who wrote home—"There are plenty of males here, lisping, silly, hair-parted-in-middle swells; but O, for the sight of a genuine man," is said to have exclaimed in rapture at sight of our Freshmen,

"O! wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,
That has such people in 't!"

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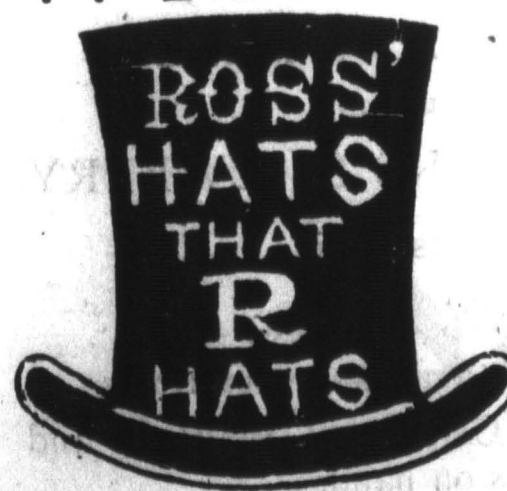
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