

DALHOUSIE

COLLEGE GAZETTE.

ORA ET LABORA.

VOL. III.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOV. 23.

NO. 1.

THE OBJECT OF COLLEGIATE LIFE.

One who wishes to study character can find no better situation in which to do so than in a crowd of students. Here he will find men of all kinds and conditions, who truly are of like passions, but in whom these passions are all differently exhibited, who without exception possess emotional natures but among whom two cannot be found whose emotional natures are the same.

One point in which all ought to agree, but in which there is much diversity, is the real object of their being students, and while there are some who come to College with no definite purpose at all, others for the mere sake of being there, others, on account of the honours they may win and still more because of the fame their presence there may indirectly gain for them in the misty future, there are only two classes whose reasons at all warrant their attendance, and they are the ones who seek merely for knowledge and those who, though in search of practical information, still more desire that which is the true object of Collegiate life.

Among our fellow-travellers on Education's road we find many who go merely to increase their stock of knowledge. To this all their labours tend and (be it said to their credit) their exertions are put forth to the utmost. But while for this purpose, all natural science is devoured, they leave as much as possible untouched the rich food of the Classics and the nourishing bread of Mathematics. This is by no means a wise course. All that they do is well enough: it is right that we should know the Chemistry and Natural Philosophy of our world: it is right that we should study the flower of the field whose beauty surpasses that of monarchs clad in purple and fine linen, and that we should enquire into the mineral which has been so long buried beneath the earth's hard crust to make our daily walks not only pleasanter but more profitable; but this is not all. The sin of this class of students is one of omission rather than of commission; and what they have omitted is the highest, noblest part of College duty. They have come where diamonds and pearls lie scattered on the ground—yet will bear away but pearls. They are admitted to the rivers banks, the dragon is slain, and the Hesperides offer them the golden apples, yet they will not take them.

What then are the true objects in view in devoting year after year to Collegiate life? Their name is Legion: but there is one grand leader of the legion; and as in olden times the name of Scipio Africanus used to overshadow all united under his command, noble men though they might be, so this the discipline of the mind—throws into the shade all objects of less importance.

In four short terms which never appear to have half their real length, we can gather up but little information and store up still less, and though we would by no means object to the introduction of as much practical matter as possible into the Collegiate Curriculum, we would decidedly object to its real objects being for that purpose kept in the background. While however we cannot make our minds to any extent full storehouses, we can acquire the materials for doing so in the future. In us all there exist the germs of those powers and faculties upon the mere development of which the possibility of our becoming great men depends. It is true that

“Order is heaven's first law; and this confessed,
Some are and must be greater than the rest,
More rich, more wise.”

The wiser however are not more wise from the possession of any innate qualifications peculiar to themselves, from having in their minds powers which belong not to less favored folk, but from the improvement of those which they possess in common with all their fellowmen. In infancy it matters not by what name we are called, for whatever it may be, we have the same powers, and it depends upon their development whether or not we are to become Bacons or Humboldts. For this purpose then we come to College. New faculties cannot be created within us. Nothing can bestow upon us a power denied by nature, but by a Collegiate training, those that have hitherto lain dormant will be awakened, those which have been in a frozen state will be chafed and rubbed into life, and all will be strengthened and elevated by the genial influence of deep research.

Classics, Mathematics and Speculative Philosophy are considered to be the best agents in the awakening of sleeping intellects. If one has never thought before they compel him to think for himself while they open up to him mines containing the most precious ores from which he must extract the still more precious metal; mines in which the supply is infinite; so that while he may gain what is inestimable now, he must wait for that which is of surpassing value till the great Hereafter.

As the movement of a limb increases its physical force, as the swaying of a tree to and fro drives the roots deeper into the soil, as fire by receiving additional fuel only burns the brighter, so the mind by exerting its powers, makes those powers stronger; by using its perceptive faculties it perceives more readily; by judging, the judgment is sharpened: by reasoning one's rational powers become more acute; and by permitting the imagination to soar amid noble things, the ideal faculty becomes elevated and refined.

The highest point to which a Socrates or a Plato has

risen is but one of the lower peaks of a noble range of mountains whose loftiest summit man has yet to reach. From the low ground which we now occupy the heights look blue and hazy, and they stand mantled in clouds so that we know not how high they really are; but as men's minds are more and more trained, as we slowly, it may be, but surely, ascend the slope, the clouds will gradually be dispelled and in new light we shall see clearly. How grand the thought that each one of us may assist in elevating the whole human race. Even though our influence should be only as the drop to the vast Atlantic, yet the very thought urges us on to action. As the candle's feeble light helps to dispel darkness from the earth, so will the enlightenment of our own mind tend to shed a feeble glimmering of radiance on the mind of the whole world; and since the mental torch is made to burst into flame at College, how important to each of us is this great object of our Collegiate life—the discipline of the mind.

The true student then enters his course of study with this end in view, looking forward to the time when he shall go forth from its portals with his energies renewed, his powers developed, his faculties called into action, the functions of his mind in working order; in a word, with his manhood formed. Hard work will not daunt him; unceasing persevering toil he courts as pleasure. He remembers Demosthenes, who, by the same agent, became earth's greatest orator. He thinks of the Great Peter of Russia, who, barbarian as he was, wrought hard, and thus managed to "kick his country into civilization." He sees that all great men have done the same before attaining any measure of success; he follows illustrious examples, strains every nerve, and uses all the means within his reach to gain the goal ahead.

THE PROPHECY OF MERLIN AND OTHER POEMS.

JOHN READE.

Says Disraeli in *Lothair*: "the critics are those who have failed in literature and art." Whatever else may be said of us, this crime at least cannot be laid to our charge, for ours is only a prentice hand. We cannot be said to have failed in the ascent of the hill of literary fame, for we are just commencing to climb its toilsome, rugged sides. At the outset of our critical career, we think it better to begin at home, than to go ranging in foreign fields of thought where critics and scholars of the first order have already gleaned a glorious harvest.

This little volume of song comes to us unpreceded by a blast of trumpets, or a gleam of literary blazonry, as the works of great men often are. On its own merits it must stand or fall. The author was previously known to us only through some unpretending translations of Homer which appeared in *Stewart's Quarterly*. These translations, not aspiring to imitate the rough grandeur of the original, simply gave us in plain unvarnished English, the thoughts of the Greek. They are included in the volume, together with some other renderings from the Latin and French, and form perhaps the most interesting and readable part of the book. The poems do not come up to our expectations. The rhythm seldom rises above the level of mere newspaper jingle; while the thoughts are often commonplace, and where they have even the semblance of beauty and power betray close imitation of some illustrious singer. One of the great merits of the book seems to be the courage the author must have had to submit some of the so-called poems for inspection in literary circles.

The Prophecy of Merlin, which is the most pretentious poem of the book, is founded upon a legend drawn from a

source where our English Laureate has discovered such rich mines of poetic imagery and thought—the doings of Arthur and his mailed knights. Assuredly those who have revelled among the ravishing pictures of Tennyson will pronounce Mr. Reade's production one of the dullest and most monotonous pieces of composition that has ever been attempted to be palmed off on a literary public under the name of poetry. If there be any interest in any one's mind attached to the poem it must be because of the personal sympathy that he feels in the personages who form a part of the subject of song. "Breathes there a man with soul so dead" that feelings of warm interest and attachment would not rise within him at the very mention of the name of our beloved Sovereign or her husband, "the blameless prince." It is not then the "linked sweetness" of the rhythm or the beauty of the thoughts that raises a temporary enthusiasm in the reader's mind, but his sympathy with the characters who are introduced.

We have the usual quota of love-ravings, commencing with a little poem called "Devenish," in which Mr. Reade blurts out his first experience in the following stanza:

"Hushed is the music of the oar;
A little hand is placed in mine;
My blood runs wildly as with wine,—
We stand together on the shore."

Not to speak of the tawdry sentimentalism, any one of true poetic taste will at once see the utter incoherency of the lines.

Not content with common work, Mr. Reade has attempted, like many persons of doubtful intellectual power, to write an elegy on Shakespeare, and with what success, the quotation of one or two stanzas will amply show:

"No guns are fired, no joy bell rings,
But neighbours call to see the boy
And mother, and to wish them joy,
And then—attend to other things."

"Some years glide by, the boy is man;
At school they thought him apt to learn:
And now he goes from home, to earn
His livelihood as best he can."

If "Gentle Will" were to see this eloquent and sublime tribute to the memory of his early days, he might shed a tear of sympathy for the author for certainly he needs it.

Some of the shorter poems betray a very intimate acquaintance with America's greatest poet, especially on which flaunts the flashing title *Per noctem plurima volvens*. We call one verse:

"Those by Fancy great enchanter, called, into my presence enter
When the Sun and Earth are sleeping, and the Moon and Stars
are bright,
And whatever past seemed pleasant, I live over in the present,
And the cares of day are lessened by the magic of the night."

Those who have read Longfellow's exquisite piece *Footsteps of Angels*—will recognize the echo. We would rather have these quiet beautiful conceits from their original source than take them at second-hand.

Mr. Reade seems to be familiar with the phraseology of the poetasters. The "moan of the pines"—"the sighing of the zephyr"—the "blue of heaven" are not unfamiliar to us. The use of these common-place hackneyed phrases is enough to stamp a man with the stigma of literary scorn.

Jubal seems a promising heading for a poem. It brings before our mind the grand old days before the flood when "Art and life were long" and we look for some grand thoughts and sweet melodies. But after reading George Eliott's beautiful song on the same subject, to peruse Mr.

Reade's tame versification was to us like taking a drink of tasteless rapid beer, after imbibing the rich luscious juice of the grape.

The "sweet singers" of our "incipient Northern Nation" as poor McGee called it, have hitherto been few and far between. It will be seen by our criticism, that in our opinion Mr. Reade does not add to the number. We have long lived in the darkness of poetical night. The dawn has come. A star has appeared in our horizon that promises to be a star of the first magnitude. Need it be said that we refer to "Enylla Allyne," who has already won for herself more than a local fame. Let us give every encouragement to home literature of real merit. Let each of us, as did those who built the fabled minster of old, give our aid to help in rearing our literary temple, that it may yet be a grand and noble structure, combining all the stability and solemn grandeur of the ancient Doric with all the beauty and picturesqueness of the modern Gothic.—

OPENING OF THE WINTER SESSION.

The formal opening of the Session took place in the Assembly Room, old Provincial Building, on Tuesday forenoon, Nov. 1st. The audience of visitors and friends of the College was considerable, and there were more students present than perhaps were ever seen at a previous opening.

Principal Ross occupied the Chair. After invoking the Divine Blessing on the meeting and the labors of the ensuing Session, he addressed the audience at some length, urging very strongly the necessity of an increased interest being taken by the citizens of Halifax and the Province generally in the success of the College. He dwelt on the apathy too commonly prevailing, particularly throughout the city, in reference to the benefits of a liberal education as evidenced by the scanty pecuniary support given to the University, and the comparatively small number of Students in attendance. After congratulating the friends of the College upon the complete organization of the first Medical Faculty in the Maritime Provinces, he introduced as the orator of the day Professor Macdonald, M. A., who delivered a most masterly address, which was a complete logical, persuasive and withal humorous argument in favor of the establishment of a Provincial University. As his speech will shortly be published, we shall not attempt to give even an outline of it, but commend all our readers to procure it for themselves.

Commissary General Strickland followed with a few remarks, bearing on the importance of a higher standard of female education.

In response to an invitation from the Principal, Sir William Young, Chairman of the Board of Governors, spoke briefly, giving both Professors and Students some good advice in his usual genial style.

Rev. Robert Sedgewick followed with a characteristic address of five minutes.

The usual announcements were then made, the Principal pronounced the benediction, and spectators and Students separated, not to meet again until next Convocation, when we trust the latter may appear in as good spirits as they did at the opening.

The Foot-ball club lately organized at the South End of the city has challenged our club to a match on Thursday, 24th inst. "Our boys" would be glad to play them but there is to be a review on the Common. However we hope that they will name another day, and we will be quite willing to test our respective powers.

CONVOCATION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY.

On the evening of Nov. 1st were held the opening ceremonies of the first session of the Medical Faculty in its present status. Prayer was offered by the Principal. W. J. Almon, Esq., M.D. the President occupied the Chair, and after a few congratulatory remarks on the change of system, and an assurance that if inexperience would operate against the Faculty their youth would enable them to face all difficulties; he introduced Hiram Blanchard, Esq., Q. C., one of the Professors of Medical Jurisprudence, who thereupon delivered the Inaugural. The Professor, by narrating a series of events which had happened in his own experience showed the necessity of studying the branch on which he was to lecture. He gave the students some excellent advice, pointing out to them the responsibility of the profession of Medicine that the success of the Faculty depended not so much upon the Professors as upon them, and not so much upon their talent as upon their hard work. He extended to them all a hearty welcome, and hoped that success would attend their studies.

Dr. Reid, the Dean, gave a concise statement of the arrangements which had been made with regard to the coming Session and the changes which had been introduced. Dr. Avery in a most fatherly manner told the students of the resolutions of his Collegiate life by which he had been able to make progress: and when Rev. G. M. Grant with his usual whole-heartedness had offered a prize of \$20, congratulated the Faculty, complimented the Professors and welcomed the students—the proceedings came to a close.

We have still room for a number of advertisements. As our paper is circulated to all parts of the Province, it affords an excellent opportunity for advertising. Those wishing to do so, should call on us at once.

We direct the attention of students and others to our column of advertisements.

Mr. Gossip has an extensive supply of College books, and makes liberal reduction to all students.—Connolly & Kelly have a most charming assortment of paper, envelopes, &c.—Young & Co. is prepared to outfit in the most fastidious style—while "Fluck" will make almost any young man irresistible. "Mr. Bretram" will be happy to attend to the inner man—while Mr. Irwin will rejuvenate with his never failing medicines.—"Mr. Hamilton" of the firm of Cairns & Hamilton is an old student of Dalhousie, and all who know him love him. Call on them before you go elsewhere, and you will never regret it.

Harvard College was named after John Harvard, who, in 1638, left to the College £779 and a library of over 300 Books.

Cornell University was named after Ezra Cornell, its founder.

CONTRIBUTORS

To the columns of the *Gazette* will please notice, that—All articles must be handed in on or before the Thursday immediately preceding that on which the *Gazette* is to appear.

The author's name must accompany all MSS.

Articles must be written legibly on one side only of numbered half-sheets; and manuscripts will in no case be returned.

Dalhousie College Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., NOV. 24, 1870.

EDITORS.

D. C. FRASER, (President), A. G. RUSSELL,
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Payments to be made to J. G. Macgregor, and all communications addressed to "Dalhousie College Gazette, Halifax, Nova Scotia."

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With the present issue our *Gazette* enters upon its third volume. It has increased with its years, in circulation, in literary tone, and in favour with all men. The novelty of its existence—being the only College paper in the Dominion—has ceased to provoke ridicule, its aims and objects have gained us sympathy, and its success has silenced cavillers and prophets of failure. All unite in declaring in its favour; all bear testimony to the good which has already resulted from it, and all are ready and willing to support our hands and cheer our hearts in the labour which the coming term shadows before us. Never before were our 'chums' so enthusiastic in our cause; never before was the field so inviting, and never did we number so many Alumni among our readers. Besides the usual gathering of Students in Arts, we have now a Medical Faculty, including twenty-five students, in attendance with us. This addition will extend the range of our Editorial supervision, will impart a new tinge to discussion, and yield it may be, other subjects for elucidation. Psychology may give way to Physiology, analysis to anatomy, or from the storehouses of *Materia medica* come food for literary consumption. With such an extent and variety of ground to be occupied, hedged in, and digged about, we look more than ever for sympathy and assistance from our class-fellows: we make our appeal at once. Let all give of their mental stores of fact, fun and fancy as nature or experience has blessed them.

Especially would we ask for College news, for everything which can in any way illustrate University life and

shew to those beyond our walls what we do and say within their classic shades. This is the time for short spicy articles. Fresh from home, from the air and scenes of the country, with the strength of a four-month's vacation at heart there must be much unwritten thought and feeling pent up beneath the "square tops," lately resumed. Give it all to us, and through us to all kindred souls. Let every one move before the *Gazette*—our mirror—and allow the onlookers one glimpse at least of his comely proportions, giving materials for critics as well as being one; let each begin, write something, and pleasure and benefit will be the portion of all concerned. The new editors have taken possession of a sanctum which has been the scene of hard labor; we tread in the footsteps of worthy predecessors. We are fully alive to the difficulties of our office; we have weighed them all and resolved to do our best to maintain our paper in possession of its present high character, and do sincerely hope that the integrity of our intention may be in some degree equalled by the success of our labors.

We expect to profit by the experience of the past and the advantages of the present, to follow no narrow principles, to obey no dictate of prejudice, and fulfil our promise to do all that in us lies to make the *Gazette* a faithful and true exponent of College life.

Thus thinking, thus hoping, thus determining, we push our little bark into the sea of public opinion to meet storms, to stem currents, perhaps to be sorely shattered, yet never to be stranded, never to founder, but to reach at last that haven whither its true destiny leads.

It is a matter of regret that the attendance of new students this session is so small. Not more than twenty Freshmen have entered, and all those are not undergrads. Doubtless many causes have combined to make the number so small. In the first place many persons in the City of Halifax and throughout the Province are under the impression that our College is purely sectarian, and is altogether under the control of the Presbyterian Church. We have met with men in Halifax so unpardonably ignorant that they did not know "Dalhousie College" was anything more than a "Presbyterian School."

The Governors represent all the Presbyterian bodies, the Baptist, Episcopalian and Methodist.

Of the seven Professors, four are Presbyterian, two Episcopalian, and one Baptist, while the students are composed of all Christian denominations.

Yet in the face of such a mixture of sectarian bodies we are spoken of by many as being altogether Presbyterian. Many young men are doubtless kept away from want of means. This consideration need keep very few from attending. A young man of modest pretensions with little inclination for high living, including cigars, punch, hair oil, &c., can pass a comfortable winter in the city, attending the prescribed classes of an undergraduate for the moderate sum of \$130. But we fear the fault is in a great measure ow-


ing to the College being so little known. Only one advertisement appeared in all the papers in the Province respecting the opening of the Winter Classes. Many of the undergraduates never received a calendar.


We would not willingly say the Senate are remiss in their duty, but we would say that it is unpardonable to offer a Scholarship to an Academy and not inform the Head Teacher of the fact at all or only three weeks before the opening of College. Neither are our Calendars sent to the principal Academies, and the result is, that little is known of our requirements and advantages. This is an age of advertising, and we need not be the exception, when institutions of learning in England and the United States of older standing and higher positions are found advertizing in our provincial papers. We think the Senate ought to be the more active in making our College known and giving young men in different parts of Nova Scotia a chance of knowing the opportunities afforded of receiving a first class education at our own Alma Mater.


Our College is too young to be considered as having made itself famous. We must not think because we have the best staff of Professors in the Maritime Provinces that every one knows such to be the case. We would humbly suggest that three months before the opening of next Session a notice concerning the terms, matriculation, and probable cost, be inserted in the principal papers in the city and Province.

In after years when our graduates have made their mark there will be less need for it, but at present we think all proper means should be used to increase our numbers, and one of the best of these means doubtless would be extensive advertising.

We repeat then that until our College is older, and the graduates have become well known, let our opportunities of imparting a superior Collegiate Education, and all information respecting requirements, time of opening, and length of term, be heralded in the principal papers of our own province at least.

 The Halifax press seems to be somewhat ignorant as regards our University. One journal speaks of "the Professor of Dalhousie College," as though we had but one! Another mentions that one of our Graduates has taken an Exhibition at McGill; whereas he was an unfledged Sophomore.

 Prof. Young of Dartmouth College, a few days ago, photographed one of the protuberances on the sun—a scientific triumph never before accomplished. He did it with a telescope, assisted with a spectroscope. This feat will give Prof. Young an honorable standing among the eminent scientific men of the world.—*Daily News*.

 Mr. Thos. Hughes, author of Tom Brown at Oxford, is visiting a number of Colleges in the United States. We wish that he would give Dalhousie a call; for we know that he would receive a hearty reception from our students.

THE MEDICAL FACULTY.

The present Session of Dalhousie College inaugurates a new era in its history. In addition to the Faculty of Arts, it has now a fully equipped Medical Faculty with power to grant the degree of Doctor of Medicine. The necessity of such an Institution, in which young men desirous of embracing the medical profession, could obtain a thorough education, has long been felt. Until the present time, these young men have been compelled to go abroad for this purpose, a few to the Canadian Schools or to Europe, but the larger number to the United States. Now without seeking to disparage the American Medical Colleges, in which some of our best practitioners have graduated, we think that in some respects their method of teaching is liable to objection. In the first place, they ask a student to do too much. The way in which our students enter, obliges them to take a full course of all the branches, and it can scarcely be expected that such a combination of the primary, with the advanced subjects, can be conducive to systematic study. In many cases the student enters with little previous acquaintance with the subjects which compose the Curriculum, he expects to graduate in two or three sessions, and the tendency is therefore, to devote the largest share of attention to Medicine and Surgery and too little to the Primary branches. In too many cases we see the results of this *forcing* process if we may so term it, the student leaves College with a vast accumulation of facts and theories which he finds great trouble to arrange, in order that he may use them in his practice.

The large hospitals in connection with the leading American Schools of Medicine, offer advantages for clinical instruction, unequalled in any part of the world, but even here there is a difficulty, from the large number of students attending, and the consequent inability of any one to observe fully, the condition of the sick. We repeat, we have no wish to disparage the American schools, but we think the time has fully arrived for the establishment of a fully equipped Medical Faculty in connection with this University. Two and a half years ago, the experiment was made of a Primary school of Medicine, giving instruction in the elementary branches with such clinical instruction as was afforded by the Hospital and Dispensary. The Course extended over a summer term of three months, and its object was to prepare the student to enter more advantageously upon the study of the advanced branches in some larger Institution. The success attending it was all that could be expected by its promoters; from fourteen students during the first term the number increased to twenty-six in the third, and judging by this it was felt that the time was fully come for the establishment of a complete Medical College. Arrangements were accordingly made during the past summer, to fill up the vacant chairs of Medicine, Surgery and Medical Jurisprudence, and a winter session was organized, which as will be seen in another column, opened on the 1st instant. Dr. Reid, formerly Lecturer on the Institutes of Medicine, has been transferred to the more important Chair of the Practice of Medicine, a change which will be hailed with pleasure by the students of his former classes, and the vacancy thus made has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Sommers, a gentleman in every way qualified for the position. Dr. Farrell, the able Lecturer on Anatomy in the Primary school, takes the Chair of Surgery, while his former position is filled by Dr. Gordon, whose reputation as an Anatomist is second to none in the city. The lectures on Medical Jurisprudence will be given by Dr. Dewolf and Hiram Blanchard, Esq., Q.C., and will no doubt give good satisfaction to all concerned. The system of instruction will be similar to that

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