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SOLITUDE.

(LEUMAS.)

Alone! Alone! in a lonely world;
Away from the friends of my youth;
My barque heavy-laden, my canvass all furled;
Now tossed by the gale, now skyward hurled;
No friend, no Naomi, like Ruth:—
Yet one comfort I have, one solace in woe,
One silvery ray wherever I go,—
My piety, virtue, and truth.

Alone! Alone! no spirit akin;
No loved one to cherish and bless;
No part in the world, 'mid its bustle and din;
No smile from without, no joy from within;
No helpless to aid in distress;—
Who can feel this is life, or say, it is good
Thus in solitude's chamber ourselves to seclude
As if there were naught to possess?

Alone! ah, no! I am not alone;
There are friends on the sunny shore,
Whose voices are heard with their rich mellow tone,
Whose bounties each day are more lavishly strewn,
To fail me, I trust, nevermore.
Who would be alone with Solitude wed,
With Despair's bitter herbs content to be fed?
Not I. My solitude's o'er.

'Tis sweet to have basked in the sunny light
Of a friend I had loved before;
To have risen in the power of my manhood's might
Above the dark clouds that bedimmed delight,
To banish distrust evermore!
O Friendship! thou gem of the richest hue!
Be mine for aye, and be ever true
Till 'we meet to part no more.'

March 11, 1871.

NOTES ON THE ART OF WRITING.

(Continued.)

As the former article on this subject ended with *Omega* the readers of the *Gazette* may have indulged the hope that the writer had there concluded his "notes," but they are hereby notified of a further infliction.

The different tribes of earth present no less variety in language than in colour, form and *soul*. According to the influences of manners, climate, and laziness, the organs of speech are developed. Nationalities or families can at any period of civilization be identified by a testing "Shibboleth." Contrary to the instruction of our pedagogues the Asiatics taught that a vowel cannot be pronounced without a consonant either before or after it. That this is so the initial aspirate—the digamma of the Greek—seems to prove. From a similar cause the Cockney of our own day speaks of his "heels," "hoats," and "harms." And the Yankee of his "years" for ears. Many Spanish words, which descended from Latin primitives beginning with a vowel, insert *h*. English, of all the Germanic descendants has retained the Gothic sound, *th*. The Irishman glories in his "fait," and loves his "mudther." No human throat is competent to utter the consonantal combinations found in the Russian tongue, except that of a Russian. The musical language of the Italian has no sounds represented by *j, k, w, x, y*. Accordingly the number of letters in alphabets is varied. When art was young there was no distinction in the size of the characters—they were all capitals, and were strung, without pausal mark, one after another like a file of Micmaes; but unlike the apparent direction of those mortals the letters followed each other in the way we term *backwards*. Not content with their lot, in quest of lost privileges those good old writers appeared to be travelling back to regain Paradise.

The Chinese spun their literary threads like the spiders their webs, downwards, beginning at the right. The Greeks wrote horizontally from right to left when they introduced the art, but they soon improved making their lines run backward and forward in imitation of the ox with the plough. This style was termed *boustrophedon*—and would seem the most rational yet invented, with the exception that it necessitates an inversion of the characters to accord with the changing direction.

In a historical connection it may be mentioned that the Chinese, who proverbially live to themselves and for themselves, who were skilled in almost all modern arts ages before the rest of the world dreamed of them, invented a

— The house in Thorn which was the birthplace of Nicholas Copernicus is to be marked out for the observation of the passers-by. A plain tablet of grey marble, with an appropriate inscription, will be placed on the front of the house, as is so frequently done in Italy.—*Athenæum*.

system of writing for themselves. It was at first purely pictorial. The characters were true copies of the natural objects which they named. Necessarily this method gave rise to endless quantities of figures. It is stated that there are still extant not less than 50,000 symbols, which however are not all in use. This alphabet dates back as early as 2,900 B.C. Soon it gave way to a metaphorical innovation; and the present system was complete 600 B.C. Strange to say this curious people printed with moveable types long before the days of Guttenburg.

The Japanese had a system of writing of their own invention almost as early as the Chinese, which they continued to use till A. D. 290, at which date they adopted the system of the latter.

The Sanscrit language possessed two methods of writing; one for the common people, and another for the Brahmins. These had nothing in common with the alphabets of the west, with the exception of the numerical signs, which are quite similar to those of the Romans and the Greeks.

The origin of Latin writing is not known. Pliny thought the Pelasgi brought it to Latium. History fails to substantiate this theory. The legend that Evander, a fugitive, introduced the letters of the Greeks to his countrymen, and that his mother transformed them into Latin letters is characteristic of the Romans. The best authorities now ascribe it to the Etruscan or Doric Greek, and believe it to be older than the modern Greek system. Subsequently the old alphabet underwent changes. New letters were introduced as they were required. The earliest forms, it appears, consisted of straight lines either side by side or at right angles. Afterwards modifications took place. For centuries after the Christian era nothing but capitals were used. These did not exceed an inch in height. In course of time they gave way to smaller uncials which at length were joined together. These letters were handed with the language itself down through the Romance languages, and they are now employed by all civilized nations with the exception of the Greeks, Turks, and Russians.

When Bishop Ulfilas in 376 introduced the Gospel to the Moesogoths, he invented letters suitable to their language. In this effort he copied largely from the Greek alphabet, to a small extent from the Roman, adding a few of Runic origin. With reverence those venerable characters of that venerable man have been preserved in the University library of Upsala. Among the Gothic nations this was the mode of writing until Durer, in the fourteenth century, gave the German alphabet its present form. At one time the German letters were more extensively used than the Latin. In the change to the latter the French took the lead. Latin was the language of the church. It became sacred and spread its characters as the Romish church disseminated her doctrines.

Some of the materials used in writing had a passing notice above. Attention has been called to the Herculean pillars and Cyclopean relics. Here a more minute detail is requisite. At the outset it is to be borne in mind that the primitives had a single eye to durability: we lay more stress on facility. They lived for the future; we live for the present. Probably the simplest writing material ever employed was the "quipos" of the Mexican—knotted ropes. With them men held intercourse with men; princes with subjects; priests with people. The same means of communication were at one time in vogue in China. The custom of writing on stones, of causing the rocks to cry out, needs no comment. Among the ruins of Babylon, around the walls of Nineveh, many examples are seen. To these, metals succeeded; bronze took the precedence, copper followed. Less liable to yield to the action of the

atmosphere than either, lead superseded both. Though not so durable, wood has been very extensively used in writing. On it were inscribed the laws of some of the Roman Emperors. In Iceland men left autobiographies on the walls of their huts, on their chairs, and bed-posts.—From the *Schedula* of the later Romans—wooden boards—we derive our legal term *Schedule*; from their occasional whiteness comes the well-known "Album." But their tablets were more frequently covered with wax than with white paint. This wax was often red, *ruber*, which explains the first employment of the term "Rubric" afterwards applied to any writing in red. Again, the bark of trees, prepared by nature, was in common use; at first the bark generally; afterwards the thin delicate layer between the coarse outside and the wood came into use. It was soft, skin like, and was called *liber*; subsequently the word signified any book; similar is the origin of the Saxon "book"—i. e., "beech," "boc" in old Anglo-Saxon. The term "folio" had its rise in the folding of those books—manuscripts. Of course, "leaves" bears its own explanation. Documents are still extant written on the leaves of the Palm.

In time, metals were found to be too ponderous, and too difficult for impression. Then papyrus was utilized. It was a reed which grew abundantly on the banks of the Nile. It grew to the height of twelve or fifteen feet, and bore hair-like plumes. Layer after layer could be easily peeled from its stem. On these peelings the Egyptians wrote. They exported them to other countries; at length it became the *papyrus*, paper, of the trading world. After a time the Egyptians ceased to export it. Then the King of Pergamos, Asia Minor, ordered his subjects to write on sheep skins. From Pergamos, *parchment* received its name. Skins, however, were employed for the same purpose by the Israelites, yet the revival of their use did not take place till the eighth century.

It is stated on historic authority that paper made of cotton existed among the Arabs as early as A.D. 704. In the eleventh century those wonderful people introduced it into Spain; where, immediately after, it was manufactured in great quantity. The year 1300 saw it in Germany, France, and Italy. Still cotton paper is used in those countries to some extent, but being more brittle, it has generally given way to that manufactured from linen, with the invention of which history also credits the Arabs, as early as A.D., 1100. The oldest document on this kind of paper is found in Valentia, dated 1251. In France there is preserved a letter to St. Louis on paper of the same material written 1270. Its use is of an equally early date in Germany.

Closely connected with, and varied by material, are the instruments of writing. For the Mexican ropes the fingers were quite sufficient. For carving on stone the knife, or chisel—*gluphanon*, was used of old, as at present. The characters of the Roman on his waxed *schedula* were traced with the *stylus*. It had a sharp end for writing, *incidere*, and a blunt one for smoothing the wax and effacing. In this connection we read in the *Ars Poetica* "*stylum vertere*," to turn the "stylus," i. e. "blot out." Made of iron these pencils were quite heavy. In the hands of reckless boys they were not a little dangerous when the pedagogue manifested his ire, and swayed his *ferula*. And even Cæsar, it is thought, died from a blow with one of them. Finally edicts were passed prohibiting the use of iron styles.

Letters on papyrus and parchment were printed with a reed—*Calamus*. The ink employed was prepared from charcoal and water. Those facts have a meaning. The use of styles, and thick simi-liquid ink on parchment

signifies slow writing, few books, and a small amount of reading.

Before the close of the ninth century pens were made of quills. Then thin ink succeeded thick; cursive hand took the place of capitals; books multiplied; men read and thought, and a revolution in the literary world ensued. Now the thoughts of the great were embalmed in folios; now the acts of the noble and the good were easily recorded for the interest and instruction of readers; now man became acquainted with man; now the world was bound together by more intellectual ties; for when thinker compared himself with thinker, the sympathy of numbers excited ambition; and the printing press was invented with all its advantages, opening up new avenues of thought, giving a stimulus to philosophy, creating among the masses a taste for literature, making authorships lucrative, learned associations and Romance possible. BULIS.

WHAT IS MAN?

Not long ago in this benighted city of Her Majesty's Empire, a wonder-working lecturer from some of the Upper Provinces addressed the proverbially "large and respectable audience," answering the boldly original question, "What is man?" Such was our degraded state that we laughed at our teacher and cracked numberless jokes at his expense. Some heathen Greek defined man to be a biped without feathers, but when some wag took an ill-starred rooster, picked him bare and sent him adrift labelled "a man" grave doubts were held about the given definition. Man has been called a natural mortal, a trinity of mind, body and soul, a material machine, which plays out thought as an Æolian harp does sounds and, again, nothing but an idea or the ghostly shadow of a mental concept. The Greek motto, *gnothi seauton*—know thyself—has been attempted to be obeyed by thousands, and the track of literature is strewn with the *debris* of writings about man. Even some of our own students have got so far up the hill of science as to ask gravely "what is man," or "what is woman?" Poetry has made him a pendulum to swing from a smile to a tear and back again; he has been called a worm and a god, a first cousin of the angels and sometimes a full brother of the fiends. Without discussing such phases of his character as those noticed, we will answer the query as random thoughts enter our mind.

Man is first suggested to us as a *lime quarry*. The pillars which support his noble frame are hard polished rocky props; nearly three hundred pieces are fitted together to form the human structure, and into the composition of all these, lime enters. The brain which is the ruling power, the executive and legislative council combined, sits behind a stout fort; strong encasements which owe their strength to lime defend the seat of thought, and enable it to rule in safety. The inner part of the teeth is largely composed of earthy matter, but the enamel is very full of calceous material. It seems to be everywhere. In the very centre of the brain, it is said, that a small gravel stone is always formed. If the bony substance of an ordinary sized man would surrender its lime, four or five pounds would be obtained; enough to white-wash a garden fence, to manure a cabbage bed, or turn a well of softest flow to water, which for washing purposes is very often useful only in producing profanity.

Lime united to carbonic acid forms chalk or marble; hence we may call man a marble deposit. The most gentle of earth's sons and daughters contain this glittering element; the greatest coward has a little of this kind of "grit" in him; the blood of heroes and the tears of "dis-

tressed heroines" alike contain this frigid stone, cooling the ardour of the one and nerving the strength of the other. Could the marble that is in us be called to the surface it would give us a complete covering of peerless white—a complexion which would outshine anything now seen, and leave all cosmetic productions limping far behind. Through the system of man rush these ever hurrying atoms of marble, now spreading over a pallid face, now chilling a strong right hand; sometimes they can scarcely be noticed; at other periods they gather about some part of the being and crust it over with their cold covering. Too oft it is around the heart they eddy and make their deposit. The effect is soon obvious. The frigid man of science who would dissect his own brother; the painter who could torture his victim to death, in order to depict the contortions of dissolution; the lady, who in her arctic beauty could attract admirers but to turn them into stony despair by rejecting them, are all illustrations of what a marble heart can do. Such a thing is not all fiction, as the history of life shows too plainly. There is enough literal marble in a man to make a large finger, long and bright, to point at all the cases of suffering which stand along his path; it would soon, if collected, make a beautiful cup from which cold water could be given to thirsty fellow travellers, it would make a little vase for flowers whose fragrance might perfume the air, or it might form a tablet pure and white on which to record resolutions of a tenderer and better life.

Man might, it seems to us, be also called a *metal bed*. When pastry has received too much baking powder it assumes a dull yellowish hue; this same sallow complexion is observable in many persons; and the cause is the same—the metal called Sodium. This is a large component of all bilious excess, which brings so much sorrow upon our race. Through the channels of life surge these vile mixtures, vexing the soul and discoloring the body, spoiling the tempers of ladies who would be *blondes* and streaking the olive of *brunettes* with sickly lines. Ah, Soda, thou dirty dust, too oft thou marrest more than wit or wisdom can make, thou sourest tempers and cloudest dispositions, thou tingest all things with thine own sallow light, and leavest sadness and melancholy where thou didst find joy and hope!

Potassium and Sodium are both found in the body, and they are very like each other. They are both used for making soapy compounds: and, perhaps, the best method of removing all soda complexions is to cease from filling the stomach with pastry, to make a soap dish of the marble within us, and diligently imitate the ancients in cleanliness.

The ruddy color of the blood which tinges the cheek of beauty or stains the assassin's dagger is due to the presence of the metal, iron. In small quantities we use it, but we require it constantly. If the particles within a man could be collected he might make his own penknives from them; in a short time he might place a horse shoe of his own iron above his door, or tack down his carpet from his own blood. A lady of florid complexion could draw from her roses enough iron pins to keep every curve of her chignon and every false curl securely fastened, and if Cupid used steel arrows he could shoot no small number from the arsenal of her heart's current. It is well known that lodestone is an oxide of iron. Yet, despite this fact, wonder is often expressed at the gravitation of young men and maidens towards each other. Imagine a student, such as one we wot of, full of iron, with every pulse twanging like a cross bow, his eye flashing with the glitter of a sword blade, and his cheeks brighter than any sesqui-oxide: imagine also his "affinity" with her heart "thrilling its recognition," her delicate veins charged with liquid lodestone stronger

than that of Sinbad's mountain; and what further imagination is more natural than that they should attract each other, like ore and its magnet, and in the retort of love form an amatory compound—a Bi-Johnate of Minnie or a Sesqui Jeminate of Harry?

Many of these minerals in man are knit to phosphoric acid, making it an important part of his composition. Now everybody knows that matches are manufactured from phosphorus, and we think it is a philosophic inference, seeing the amount of this substance in his body that man should be a match-making creature. Experience proves the truth of the conclusion. Every day we behold little pink ones and large blue ones fashioned, all of which go off at the least rub of a parson's coat sleeve, and burst into bright hymeneal torches. Phosphorus shows best in the dark; and it is said that "sparking" is nothing more than the union of two pieces of human phosphorus by a labial juncture, effected amid the shadows. The teeth contain more phosphorus than any other exposed part of the human frame; the parted lips allow the light-giving, spark-producing, match making parts of kindred natures to meet, and kissing is declared to be the scientific and necessary result.

What is man? Man is a *swamp*, a deeply saturated morass. Were he chemically dried and all the oxygen and hydrogen of his system removed, there would be a very little lump of stony metallic material left. A young dandy, long limbed, delicately thin, and well cut in every feature, weighing one hundred and thirty pounds would, when thus treated, yield about one hundred weight of watery element and leave the remainder of dull brown dust. The beauty and grace which clothe the fair forms of angelic women and handsome men are due to the liquids which fill every pore and round every curve. An old man wrinkled and flabby is a dried up marsh, a parched prairie. As many suns exhaust the tide of life the human morass becomes more and more unsightly, tracks of time remain fixed upon it, and its vegetation dies before the withering blast of death. It is no wonder that fickleness marks mankind. Vows made by us are traced in the moisture of breath or written in sand. Reuben is said to have been unstable as water, which just means that he was man, and possessed the usual fluidity of a healthy farmer as he was. We are all sprung from water as purely as Thales imagined. Our young men follow Neptune and our maidens sport as water nymphs on their own account.

We have only time before dinner to add that man is a *furnace*. Bodily heat is produced by a burning of fuel taken in at the coaling stations called meals; the breath coming off is largely mixed with smoke of carbonic acid and water. Artemus Ward said there was fire enough in his heart to boil all the vegetables in a kitchen garden. Had he placed the boiler a little lower down he would have been scientifically correct. The best material for the heat-giving lungs is fat of all kinds. The Esquimaux keep the largest furnaces and drink in oil by the gallon to maintain a good fire inside. Fat people gather up fuel—they are like wood houses. They are like smouldering fires slow and lasting. Active men are blazing torches. Too much heat within is as bad as too little. Nature sometimes puts too large a furnace in frail bodies. She did so in such geniuses as H. Kirke White, Henry Martyn, Chatterton, &c. They poured in the turpentine, resin and alcohol of learning, and kindled such a blaze of effort and started such a force within that the machinery could not stand it; the frame tottered and fell. It is into this fire of intellect that the midnight oil of student's lamps is supposed to be poured; the brilliant coruscations of fancy are oft pro-

duced by the very oil of young life. A man's fire is universal, a woman's burns within her heart; a man lives and loves; a woman loves and lives. The furnace of humanity glows and wanes in its heat; it cannot be maintained safely at a high temperature very long. The fevered brow must be cooled, and the flushed cheek reduced as soon as possible.

Young students sometimes come to College with a bright fire of self importance, glowing in their registers; but soon the "flower" of vanity is removed, the poker of ridicule applied, and nought is found remaining but a little sickly ashes. This is one of the good results that a college training gives.

We must now stop. The *Gazette* will receive small notice just at present. We are all piling in literary fuel for the great fire which is necessary to melt examination papers and getting up steam for the final push, and we hope that every brother alumnus may keep warm to the end, and that through the shadows his lamp may remain burning and twinkle brightly at last from the heights beyond.

SPERTHIAS.

CLASSICAL EDUCATION IN THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.

If any of our undergrads are proud of their classical attainments, let them read the following specimen of Latinity, and weep. It is taken from a "Lecture addressed to the Senior Greek Class, Aberdeen, at the opening of the Session 1869-70," by William D. Geddes, M. A. It was written by a student before entering the University, with only a training in a "Scottish School." We quote in full:

"Some of my readers may wish to have a specimen of what a Scotch Student can do at this so-called Bursary Competition. I subjoin the passage prescribed at the Competition of 1868, with the rendering of the First Bursar on that occasion, composed without Dictionary or any aid, and here given *verbatim et literatim*, which, to those who know, will speak for itself.

"To be Translated into Latin Prose.

"Nero, apprised of Hasdrubal's arrival on the Po, resolved to march rapidly northward, join his colleague, and crush the new enemy before Hannibal came to his support. The anxiety meanwhile felt universally at Rome, we may in some measure understand from a remarkable passage in Livy, which forms one of the ornaments of his pictured page. Every day, as he tells us, the senate sat from sunrise to sunset; the forum was crowded with men, the temples with matrons; everywhere there was running to and fro and excitement, as if something solemn was impending. A rumour arose of a great victory: two horsemen straight from the field had told the garrison at Narnia. For a while many hesitated to believe a floating rumour, for how was it likely that tidings had arrived in two days from the extremity of Umbria? better to wait until the consul's own despatches were received. The evidence craved was not wanting. Three lieutenants from the camp were announced as approaching. The crowd poured out to meet them for two miles as far as the Mulvian bridge, and loud cheers then testified what Rome owed to the house of Nero.

"Nero, quum Hasdrubalem ad Padum pervenisse rescisset, statuit septemtriones versus celeriter proficisci, se

collegae suo jungere, et novum hostem prius opprimere quam Hannibal ei auxilio venisset. Quanta omnium sollicitudo Romae interim fuerit, ex insigni apud Livium loco, quod unum est ex pictae ejus paginae ornamentis, aliqua ex parte intelligere possumus. Quotidie, ut is narrat, senatus ab solis ortu ad occasum sedit; forum viris, templa matronis conferta fuerunt; undique homines perturbati discurrerunt, quasi aliquid grave immineret. Fama magnae victoriae orta est: duos equites, qui ex acie directe venissent, praesidio Narniae dixisse. Aliquamdiu multi famae vaganti fidem habere dubitarunt, quomodo enim verisimile esse nuncium ab extrema Umbria duobus diebus pervenisse? Satius esse expectare dum consulis ipsius epistolae acceptae essent. Indicium petitem diu non deerat. Nunciatum est tres legatos e castris appropinquare. Turba duo millia passuum, usque ad pontem Mulvium, iis obviam effluxit, et magni clamores tum testati sunt quid Roma domo Neronis deberet."

"That it may not be alleged that we have selected a fine specimen of Latinity, I add, also, the edition of the passage as given by the last person who obtained a Bursary, and he was sixtieth in the whole list. Though far inferior to the one that was placed first, it shows a creditable knowledge of Latinity, notwithstanding some serious errors, and one *maximus* error, which is probably a slip:—

"Nero quum de Hasdrubalis adventu ad Padum certior factus esset ad septentrionem celeriter proficisci statuit, se suo collegae jungere, et novum hostem antequam Hannibal auxilio ei venisset evertere. Sollicitudinem quae interim sentiebatur Romae inter omnes, aliqua ex parte celebre loco apud Livium discere possumus qui unum ex ornamentis ejus pictorum locorum fecit. Quotidie ut nobis dicit senatus sedit ab oriente sole ad occidentem solem, forum plenum hominum fuit, templa matrum plena fuerunt, in omnibus locis populus hinc et illinc currebat et incitabatur quasi aliquid solemne impenderet. Rumor de magna victoria ortus est: duo equites qui statim ex acie venerant Narnia praesidio id dixerant. Aliquamdiu multi fluctuanti rumori credere dubitarunt, quam enim verisimile fuisse nuntium intra duos dies ab extremis partibus Umbriae venisse? melius futurum esse expectatu dum consulis ipsius legationes acceptae essent. Documentum petitem haud diu abfuit. Nuntiatum est tres legatos a castris venisse. Turba erupit ut iis duo millia passuum ad Mulvianum pontem occurreret et magni assensus tunc testati sunt quid Roma domui Neronis deberet."

Correspondence.

Messrs. Editors:—In glancing over a number of your paper a few weeks ago, an article entitled "Adventures in the North" attracted my attention, and my first thought was that some one, taken with a literary fit, who had returned from an Arctic voyage, was contributing to your journal; hence it was with a pleasing anticipation, that I commenced to read. The narrative began with some humorous suggestions regarding the great African explorer, Dr. Livingstone, but, either on account of my obtuseness or the profundity of the language, I failed to discover the wit contained in those introductory remarks.

Of the part of the globe in which the writer experienced the thrilling adventures which he has revealed to the world through your columns, we have been left in profound ignorance, and were it not for some hints in the conclusion of his production, which lead us to believe that Nova Scotia was the scene of the adventures, we would

yet be in the dark. After having read a protracted account of a drive over a rocky road, a ramble along the shore and an excursion into the woods, I was prevented from going any farther by the termination of the first instalment. The article was continued in the next number, and I resumed my perusal of it expecting to obtain a reward for the labor which I had expended in wading through the former part of the *treatise*. Imagine my surprise, when, after I had perused the second, I found that it contained nothing but the relation of a shock which our romantic hero experienced upon meeting a one-eyed Indian, who, instead of scalping him, as he expected, introduced him to his one-eyed wife. I hoped, for your sake, Messrs. Editors, and for the sake of your subscribers, that your contributor, satisfied with his success as a narrator, had been content to terminate his composition at this point. But it was not so to be. Again the article was continued, and again I undertook to read its contents, which consisted solely of the narration of the conversation which the author had with this interesting couple, and in which, wonderful to relate, he represents himself as having very little to say. The subject of this conversation, it is unnecessary to remark, was as interesting as the other parts of the composition.

All this was written in sober, solemn earnest, without the slightest attempt at a joke, (if we except the highly humorous introduction,) and no doubt was expected to create a favorable impression upon the readers of your paper. To think that any man would sit down and devote a number of hours to writing an account, several pages in length, of an excursion to an Indian's camp, in some remote part of this Province, is highly ludicrous. But when he gives the result of his toil the title of "Adventures in the North," I think that it approaches the consummation of absurdity.

C. M.

PRINCETON.

Messrs. Editors:—It may be interesting to your fellow-students and the other readers of your *Gazette* to learn something about Colleges in other parts of the continent. Princeton College is known to many by reputation, who have heard little else about it. The whole course of study requires four years—nine months in each session, inclusive of vacations. The subjects for entrance examination are similar to those in Dalhousie, except that more Latin is required at Princeton. The number of students in the different classes is three hundred and seventy. There are twelve Professors and four Tutors. About seventy-five students intend to graduate at the close of this session. The standard has been raised, and is carried out much more efficiently since the appointment of the Rev. Dr. McCosh, from Britain, to the Presidency. His work on the Divine Government—a work which every student should have—is a sufficient proof of the master mind he possesses. His ability to teach and his skill and pointedness in meeting objections, are the wonder of all who have heard him. Several prizes are given in each class, as incentives to study, and are worth almost two hundred dollars each. There is in connection with the College a Debating or Literary Society, which meets once a week. Towards the close of each session the best speakers appear in the oratorical contests before a committee of judges, and after all are heard, four gold medals are awarded to the four most successful orators. A Professor of Elocution is always in attendance, and is ready to hear, correct and suggest improvements. This is free to all students, the expenses being borne by generous friends of the Col-

lege. There is a chapel service in connection with the institution, where all are required to meet in the forenoon for service, when one of the Professors officiates; in the afternoon Dr. McCosh lectures on the Epistle to the Romans. Before service-time in the evening the students meet by themselves for prayers. In addition to this there is a weekly prayer-meeting in connection with the College.

There is a set hour for foot-ball, and the Gymnasium is open three different times on every day of the week, except Sundays. The Gymnasium is a magnificent building, having cost over \$70,000. It was the gift of one man. Last year two prizes, of two hundred dollars each, were given through the generosity of Mrs. Thomson, to the two best gymnasts. All the students lodge in the College building, and have very comfortable rooms, which are always partly furnished on delivery. It is needless to speak of the size and number of edifices necessary for the different class-rooms, for a library of 25,000 volumes, and for the accommodation of so many students. In closing, I may say that European travellers, when visiting America, have declared that the different halls in connection with Princeton College were not only unsurpassed, but were unequalled by those of any other, either in the new or in the old world.

Yours truly,

Princeton, March 2nd.

D. K. C.

COLLEGE NEWS.

EUROPE.

— OXFORD. The number of matriculations during the past year, was 567, comprising 38 "unattached students," as a set-off to which 393 gentlemen proceeded to their Bachelor's degree. Of the other degrees conferred by the University, there were 5 Bachelors and Doctors in Divinity, 13 Bachelors of Civil Law, 2 Bachelors of Medicine, 217 Masters of Arts, 28 Students of Civil Law, and 9 Bachelors of Music.—John Ruskin, author of *Modern Painters &c.*, has lately been elected Professor of Art.

— CAMBRIDGE. The Senior Wrangler for this year at Cambridge is Mr. Hopkinson, of Trinity College. We notice, also, that the second Wrangler is from Trinity. — Mr. Richard Burney, M.A. has founded an Essay prize of £105.

— NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH. Dr. Duncan, professor in New College, is dead. It is of this absent-minded gentleman that the much abused story is told to this effect. A cow having rushed against him, he mechanically lifted his hat and muttered, "I beg your pardon, madam." Two days after he stumbled against a lady and exclaimed, "Is that you again, you beast?"

— BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE, ENGLAND. Professor Huxley has been elected President. He succeeds Charles Dickens.

— ROMAN COLLEGE. The Italian Government has ceased to pay the Jesuits of the Roman College their monthly allowance of 1,000 scudi.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

ACADIA COLLEGE, WOLFVILLE, founded in 1813, has 6 instructors, 43 students, and a theological class of 10. Its property is valued at \$52,000, and its endowment is \$40,000.—The students have organized a secret Society called

"The Order of the Silver Crescent." Secret Fraternities are prohibited at Harvard, Princeton, and Ohio Wesleyan University.

UNITED STATES.

— HARVARD. President Elliott states in his report, that the statute conferring the Master's degree in course has been repealed and that after Jan. 1, 1872, no degree will be conferred in any department without examination. This is the plan pursued at the University of Virginia.—A great project is being discussed in Boston, being no less than the union of the several art collections at Harvard, the Athenæum and the Public Library in one grand Art Museum on the plan of the famous Art Museum at Kensington, London. It is proposed to erect a grand building for the purpose on the site of the Coliseum at a cost of nearly a million dollars, and a mass meeting will soon be held in Music Hall to secure subscriptions.—Harvard refuses to admit women.—The following Nova Scotians recently passed highly creditable examinations before the Medical Faculty of the University; Danl. McKenize, D. McIntosh, Edwd. M. Patterson, Murdo Sutherland and John C. McKinnon of Pictou, Suther C. Murray of Colchester, and Patrick A. McDonald of Antigonish. They were admitted to the degree of M.D. on 8th inst. at the opening of the summer course, when Prof. Oliver Wendell Holmes addressed the graduating class.

— CORNELL. A Collegiate Institute for young ladies, under the charge of the wife of one of the professors of the University, will be opened in the Spring, and its students are to be admitted to the University lectures.

— CALIFORNIA COLLEGE. A correspondent writes from California to the *Baptist Standard*: "At length we have the beginning of a Baptist College in this state. A property worth \$25,000, embracing ample ground and five buildings—formerly held by the Southern Methodists—has come into Baptist hands for \$4,000. Prof. M. Bailey is President, *pro tem.* Efforts will be made to secure funds for endowment."

— WILLIAMS COLLEGE, WILLIAMSTOWN. The expedition from Williams College to Central America at last accounts has reached the table lands of Comayagua, whence they will strike some point on the Pacific coast. They write home of magnificent ruins and scenery such as only the mellow air and exquisite climate of the tropics can create. The botanist, F. E. Stratton, of Athol, and the ornithologist and etymologist of the party have obtained many beautiful specimens, and the expedition will doubtless be of a great value to science, as they are exploring a country little known to scientific men.

— NORTH WESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, Ill., has purchased the choice library of the late Dr. John Schulze, of Berlin, consisting of over 20,000 volumes.

— WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY. Moncure Robison, Esq., of Philadelphia, has presented his valuable scientific library containing a thousand volumes to the University.

— CINCINNATI, Ohio, is to have an Unitarian University.

— YALE has had in all but nine presidents, whose average term of office has been nineteen years; while Harvard, has had twenty-three, serving on the average but ten years each.

— DELAWARE. OHIO has a male and a female College. The alumni are in favour of uniting them.

— MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY. Prof. Jas. C. Watson who went out to Sicily to observe the eclipse, has written home that he was completely successful. Giving his entire attention to the Corona, he obtained data which show conclusively that this Corona really belongs to the sun; it being composed of gases held in suspense high above the hydrogen flames in protuberances, already so well observed.

— NEW YORK has four colleges for women, viz: Ingham University, and Nassau, Elmira and Rutgers colleges.

— PRINCETON is to have a new college paper entitled *The Life*, to be edited by Messrs. J. C. Pennington and C. W. Kase. The paper, while being local, will contain articles from every college in the United States of any importance; besides the editors have correspondents in Heidelberg, Munich, Berlin, Edinburgh and Oxford, so that the college news throughout the world will be regularly communicated.

— LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, EASTON, Penn., has had a revival, as many as sixty having been converted.—There are now twenty-five members of the faculty, and over 230 students. Civil Engineering has been made a complete and separate course from the beginning. Changes have been made in the studies of all the departments, and the whole standard raised.

PERSONALS.

— G. L. SINCLAIR, whose name appears in a late issue as having studied at Bellevue College, has been a student in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. He has returned to this city and will continue his studies in Dr. Almon's office.

— J. G. ROSS, a medical student of '69 and '70 has been studying during the winter at Bellevue College, New York.

— GIDEON BARNABY, a student of Session '70 has returned from Harvard College, Boston, where he has been during the past term.

— H. BLACK, who took a partial course during the Session of '70, has returned from Philadelphia, where he has been a student in the Dental College, and will continue the study of Dentistry with Dr. Cogswell of this city.

— J. G. A. CREIGHTON, B. A. of '67, paid us a visit a few days ago.

— HENRY WEBSTER has returned from McGill. He called to see us as he passed through Halifax.

DALLUSIENSIA.

— The Lectures in the Medical Faculty will be continued until the last week in April. Those in the Arts Faculty will close on Thursday next. The examinations will be held during the two weeks following. Both Medicals and Arts students are busily engaged in revising, preparatory to passing through the great ordeal.

— A student who trembles at the prospect of the coming Examinations, suggests that application be made to the House of Assembly for the passing of an act to lengthen the days to 36 hours instead of 24, in order to give him more time for "reading up." We advise him not to wait for legislative assistance, but put his own shoulders to the wheel.

— Dr. THOMAS TRENAMAN, Demonstrator of Anatomy, lectured before the Young Men's Wesleyan Institute of this city last week. His subject was "The House I live in," which afforded him an opportunity of discoursing at

some length and in a very clear and interesting manner upon the structure of the human frame, while he illustrated his descriptions by constant reference to charts and skeletons, thus adding greatly to the interest of his remarks.

— On Wednesday, March 15th, the inmates of the Penitentiary were treated to a lecture by Prof. Lawson on the Constituents of the Atmosphere.

— The military display of the 16th inst. was a general object of attraction to our students. Medicals and Arts accompanied the grand army to the field of battle,—the former patriotically desirous of attending to the wounded, the latter attracted simply by curiosity to see the fight. It is needless for us to make any remarks upon the fine appearance presented by the troops, both regulars and volunteers; the precision and skill with which the various manœuvres were executed, the imposing array made by the warriors as they marched to the scene of action, or the bravery displayed in the storming of the enemy's position. As we watched the long column of red and blue defile through the streets to the inspiring strains of martial music, with all the pomp and circumstance of glorious war, we could not refrain from asking what had become of the College Rifle Corps which was organized several terms ago? Much as we admired (as who could refuse?) the stalwart forms and the intelligent, "canny" faces of the Highlanders, the bronzed countenances of the men of the 61st, or the neat, trim appearance of our citizen soldiery, we must confess that we would have been still more interested had we beheld among them a company composed of students. The non-existence of such a corps, however, compelled us to act as spectators instead of combatants. With mingled feelings the progress of the fight was watched from the top of Fort Needham. Medicals discussed the propriety of organizing themselves into an ambulance corps and sending back to the city for a supply of lint and stretchers. Freshmen and Sophs., gazing upon the gallant advance of the attacking force, thought of the deeds of Hannibal and the famous heroes of yore. Juniors were occupied in calculating the range of the artillery used, while the siege of Fort Rockhead reminded the Seniors of the capture of the Bastille and the storming of the Redan. We did indeed hear one cynical Junior quoting the famous couplet referring to the king, who "with twice ten thousand men marched up the hill, and then—marched down again;" but with this exception, all appeared to be highly delighted with the prowess displayed by every man in the field, from the jolly General himself down to the smallest drummer or knight of the triangle. Escorted by the returning victors, we came back to the classic walls of Dalhousie with sharpened appetites and weary feet, but feeling all the better for spending a day on the field of battle (!)

— We acknowledge receipt of the reports of the Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax, of the Superintendent of the Provincial Hospital for the Insane, and of the Chief Commissioner of Mines.

— We welcome to our table *The Acorn*, Newburgh Institute, Newburgh, N. Y., *The Mercerian*, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, and *The Williams Quarterly*, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

— Mr. Geo. H. H. DeWolfe has our thanks for the third number of the *Edinburgh University Magazine*.

— Business letters received to date from J. J. Cameron, E. Moore and Dr. Dewolf.

— The Editors regret that the Sessional examinations will prevent them from issuing the next number of the *Gazette* at the usual time. No. 11, which will conclude Vol. III. will appear on the 29th of April.

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