

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

ORA ET LABORA.

VOL. VI.

HALIFAX, N S., JANUARY 10, 1874.

No. 4.

OUR EDINBURGH LETTER.

EDINBURGH, Dec. 6th, 1873.

Dear Gazette:—Many of your readers will remember that in the last session of Parliament a bill was introduced, dealing with the Universities of Ireland. It was intended to please both Protestants and Roman Catholics, and its main provisions were, that the University of Dublin should be the only University in Ireland, that the others should become mere affiliated colleges, that there should be no denominational tests, that History and Metaphysics should not enter into the examinations for degrees or honours, and that, on certain conditions, our educational institutions might become affiliated Colleges of the University, and by their representatives, share in its government. Mr. Gladstone's eloquence gave his bill a popularity of three days. But second thoughts made all Protestants condemn it, while Roman Catholics soon pronounced it a "godless" measure, and one which they could not regard with favour. The bill was the work of a politician, not of an educationist, and it failed. The Roman Catholics, or Cardinal Cullen, (for as to opinions in matters of education these are convertible terms) had hitherto indulged the hope that Gladstone would give them such a University as they desired. They demanded that the State should endow it and give it degree-conferring power, while its management should be left entirely in their own hands. This hope was suddenly snuffed out when Gladstone's too-indulgent decision was made known, and the country's opinion, more harsh and more just, revealed itself. Thrown then upon their own resources, they have since devised the scheme which has lately been published.

Hitherto the Roman Catholics have had no University specially their own. There has, indeed, for some time been an institution called the Roman Catholic University of Dublin. But it has never been more than a High School. Its name has been a misnomer. It has never claimed the right of conferring degrees. Within the last few days, however, an announcement has been made, which shows that they are determined to have a properly endowed and properly equipped University, even if they pay for it themselves. They have decided to consolidate and extend the Dublin institution, and to found a similar one in London. The latter only exists on paper, but the former has just been opened under the name of the New University of Dublin. Its constitution is not yet thoroughly known. From a circular recently issued by Dr. Woodlock, the Rector, it appears that the Senate is democratic in its character, consisting of laymen, priests and bishops, who, *pro tem.*, regard themselves as equal in rank. The Senate's powers, however, seem to be very slight. The Rector is the real manager, and he is responsible not to the University authorities, but to His Holiness alone. The members of the Corporation, the Professors, &c., must be of the Roman Catholic faith. The system of affiliation, now discarded by the University of London, is to be adopted by the "New University." Not

only are degrees to be granted to the men who study under its own Professors, but all the existing R. C. Colleges in Britain are to be affiliated, and degrees are to be given to the students whom they may send up. Besides the British youth, it is expected that the "New University" will draw to its halls young men from Italy, Spain, and all the continental countries which have taken secular education out of the hands of the Church. The power of granting degrees has been obtained in rather an old-fashioned way. The Rector's circular says: "The Pope has given our University the power of granting degrees;" and on that authority they have proclaimed their intention of conferring them. The "New University" was opened a few days ago by an inaugural address from the Rector, in which he lauded the patriotic effort which is being made, and appealed to the Roman Catholic part of the British public for its support.

There is nothing in the above statement that calls for remark save that text from Dr. Woodlock's epistle to the church in Britain: "The Pope has given our University the power of granting degrees." Upon the powers which His Holiness possesses in this department depends the rank which the so-called University is to hold among the educational institutions of Britain; also the solution of the question whether the R. C. University of Dublin has with its new name obtained a new charter, or is still a mere High School. There is no doubt that in former times Popes had power to bestow the boon which Pius Nono now proffers. St. Andrew's and Glasgow both grant degrees under bulls which issued from the seven-hilled city, and the validity of their diplomas have never been questioned. But three centuries form a long series of years, and perhaps with the change of times, has come, too, a change of customs and prerogatives. In the huge pile of British Laws there is none which settles the source of degree-conferring power. But in the absence of Law, "use and wont" must be the arbiter of disputes, and it seems as if "use and wont" must necessarily decide against the Pope. Of the ten Universities of Britain, three are modern, while seven run back more or less into the past. If the latter formed the ground of decision, the new aspirant to University powers would stand a pretty fair chance. Unfortunately, however, the mode of procedure in the case of the former, the only ones founded since the religious and political condition of Great Britain has been as it is now, must decide the question in the other way. The Universities of London and Durham, and the Queen's University in Ireland, have all received their charters from the Queen, *i.e.*, from Parliament, and it would seem, therefore, that if the Roman Catholics wish their so-called University to rank as such, they must lay their case before Parliament and beg its sanction. This must certainly be done in the case of medical or legal degrees, if it is intended that they are to be of the least practical benefit. Even, however, if the petition be presented, it is very doubtful, or perhaps I should say, it is not very doubtful, what the answer will be. Public opinion in Great Britain is strongly against denominational University educa-

tion; and as, in the Colonies and in the United States, its evil effects are being seen in the almost total extinction of universities properly so called, that opinion is being strengthened. None except Roman Catholics ever think of upholding such a system as Nova Scotia delights to honour, and the minister who would propose to endow or assist in endowing denominational universities, who would, in fact, attempt to carry out the present university policy of our province, would soon be hissed out of office. The Roman Catholics, however, are in a peculiar position. In Parliament Gladstone confessed that the higher education of Ireland was not in a satisfactory state. The dictates of a Roman Catholic conscience are a variable quantity depending upon the opinions of an infallible Pope. At present the Pope thinks it wrong that any of his children should make use of any of the "Godless" universities which are open to them, and they therefore can plead conscientious scruples against them. However strange this kind of conscience may seem to us, who belong to a different part of the church militant, and however unreasonable may appear to us its scruples, nevertheless they exist; and existing they demand attention. Their sincerity is shown by the resolution to endow by private subscription two great institutions. What then is to be done? If no application be made to Parliament, the degrees of the "New University" will be recognized only by Roman Catholics, and perhaps not by all of them, and even if the Pope's prerogative be treated as a fiction, and the sanction of Parliament be asked, there is no doubt that it will not be granted unconditionally. Powers of inspection and a voice more or less loud in the Councils of the University will at least be retained; while, as an essential condition, His Holiness will be asked to resign his Principalship. Meantime the so-called University has opened and lectures have been given. How they will end, and in what rank a man who can subscribe himself M. A., New Univ., Dub., is to be placed, must be revealed by time.

MAC.

IN A VESTRY.

It was on a bright Sunday morning in the month of January, that Mr. A. Student and his companion started for a certain country-church in the County of Pictou. The glistening snow was throwing back the rays of the morning light with considerable vehemence, the calm air increased its good feelings towards its neighbors, and the affectionate sun smiled upon the scene, as the noble steed glided swiftly on over the highly polished road; nor was his speed perceptibly diminished until the church was gained. It was a very fine building, surpassing many of our city-churches. The vestry, though comfortable, was not used by the Pastor during the winter months. He, after driving several miles in a frosty air, naturally desired more comforts than a Vestry could afford. These were found in a farm-house hard by. Here all his wants were cheerfully administered to, and here, as long as the cold season lasted, was he found a regular visitant. So, when the congregation had assembled, and the pulpit and pews had been occupied, Mr. A. Student and Miss Beautiful by mutual consent repaired to the Vestry. Here they purposed to have a friendly talk, and to enjoy each other's company as long as the sermon lasted; after which they could easily issue forth from their pleasant quarters, and join the mass unobserved. Shortly after the services of the day had begun, the most officious one of the elders passed round in order to see that there were no "loafers," and that everything was in an orderly condition. Observing the door of the Vestry slightly ajar, he drew it to with some force, locked it, and put the key in his pocket. "By thunders! we're locked in," said Mr. A. Student.

"Oh! never mind," responded Miss Beautiful with a sigh of relief, "I'm so glad that that old clatter-box did not see us. It would be all over the country before next Sabbath. Everybody would have it, and that would be a great deal worse than it is to be locked in." Their imprisonment was soon forgotten, and the agreeable chat resumed. Thus were the pleasant hours passing swiftly away. But the sermon was ended, the closing exercises gone through, and the flock dismissed. Now a strong desire for being released was participated in; yet it was, for the time, far outweighed by the fear of being discovered. With marked attention do they listen to every sound that falls, as the unsuspecting worshippers pass out. The minister and one or two others bring up the rear. Presently is heard the grating sound of the key, as it launched the heavy bolt into its place.

Doubly locked in a church in mid-winter! What a dreadful thought! and what a still more dreadful realization! Wrapped in deep meditation until the jingling of the bells, and the song of the frosty snow ceased, and all was perfect quietness, Mr. A. Student despondingly exclaimed, "What is to be done? If I had only called back the sexton! But then I was afraid that the minister might be too near. I will try, however, if I cannot burst the door." The door was tried, yet all the force which he could bring to bear upon it could not move it from its place. The only response given to his repeated blows was one echo after another, which rang through the church, and seemed to mock him in proportion to the force of his efforts. The window was next tried, but it was frozen down. A pane, notwithstanding, could have been easily broken, and this, probably, would have been done, were it not that this same window was some twelve or fifteen feet from the ground. Here, with great difficulty, he might possibly succeed in effecting his own escape, but then his beloved— So this was also abandoned. Now all their hopes of effecting a secret escape were gone. Their only prospect now was in obtaining assistance from some passer-by. Accordingly, a portion of the window-pane was kept clear of ice, and there both remained on the lookout. Several fruitless hours were spent at this dreary occupation; the house, at first warm and comfortable, was now becoming extremely cold; and the gloomy night was fast sinking upon the snow-covered earth, when an expression of deep anxiety and nervous restlessness began to imprint itself upon the countenances of both, as a certain old Scotchman came in sight. "Halloo, mister! see here! see here!" The Scotchman, hearing a voice proceed from the church, stopped short and turned himself in that direction. "That's John's ghost. I thought he would be around here," murmured he to himself. "For heaven's sake let us out. The keys are at Ross'. We're nearly frozen. Be quick," next proceeded from the church. The old man, wondering what these things meant, immediately set out for the keys, and soon returned, accompanied by Mr. Ross, whose curiosity was also aroused. The first door was opened. Then two lights were struck up. Mr. Ross stood back with one, while the Scotchman, directed by the strange voice within, proceeded with the other to the vestry door and unlocked it. The faint light from the tallow candle was sufficient to disclose to him the pale and bewildered countenances of the unfortunate pair. Ghastly enough did they appear; yet, after a few searching glances, he succeeded in convincing himself that they were real and living. Accordingly, he demanded and obtained, though with some reluctance, a full and accurate account of this strange occurrence. This he demanded as the only recompense for his service. Others have obtained the same since without such nerve-straining, and so have you, Reader.

After escorting Miss Beautiful to her residence, Student travelled all the way to his own on foot, as his comrade had returned many hours before, taking with him their horse and

sleigh. The weather had greatly changed since morning. The tread of Jack Frost was heard among the trees. The angry wind aroused the snow from her quiet resting place, and carried her into strange regions. The naked trees as Æolian Harps, sounded the marching song. With difficulty was it that Student pushed his way against the conquerors and the conquered. He, however, arrived home before the big grate-fire had much diminished; and as he sat musing before its changing hues, he exclaimed aloud, "It's serving me right. I had no business to leave my own church, and go so far to see any girl. If I had done as I ought, this catastrophe would not have befallen me, and now every body will know it." Such was his conclusion then, and such is ours now, with this addition, that if he had attended College during the winter, as he ought to, not likely this would have been his sad experience.

G.

THE STUDY OF ANGLO-SAXON.

WE are pleased to observe that the ordinary course of Lectures on Rhetoric and English Language, there has been added the additional study of Anglo-Saxon. This we think is a most judicious enlargement of the curriculum.

In one respect, indeed, the study of Anglo-Saxon cannot be compared to that of the classical languages. Not only do these afford superior mental training, but they are also the keys to a vast and magnificent literature. In this, indeed, lies the reason of the place they have so long retained at the head of all schemes for the cultivation of the intellect. In our earliest years, for the purposes of increasing our powers of application, of strengthening our memory, and of giving to the first efforts of our reasoning faculties, habits of system and regularity, they are invaluable; and in maturer age, when mathematical and mental science dispute with them the palm as an intellectual gymnastic, they still retain pre-eminence as the trainers of our tastes, and as the inlets to the wisdom and learning of antiquity. To this Anglo-Saxon has no claim. It has no great national literature. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle can hardly be placed in comparison with the works of Herodotus and Thucydides, of Livy and Tacitus; Beowulf and Caedmon—the Saxon Homer and Milton—cannot alone make a poetical literature. The other works of the period are either written in Latin—as those of Gildas and Bede—or translations, as Alfred's of the Bible, and the consolation of Boethius.

But in all other respects, Anglo-Saxon will bear comparison with any other study in the whole round of arts and sciences. It certainly is not equal to the Greek or Latin in the number and system of grammatical terminations and inflexions, but we think it doubtful whether the simple yet determinate structure of our forefathers' language, taken in conjunction with the history of change and progress from that time to the present, its sturdy resistance to the rude onslaughts of the Norman French, and its gradual absorption of the classical Latin, will not prove of equal value as a mental discipline with any of its better known and longer established rivals.

In one respect at least, it is superior to any other of the studies usually included in a college curriculum. It is frequently urged as a plea for the study of Latin that it is essential to a right comprehension of our own language. We think the plea a just one. To one unacquainted with Latin the terms of English philosophy must be almost unintelligible, or at least will be deprived of all their peculiar force and significance. Even in the language of every-day life and literature, there is much that will be rendered clear and more definite by the smallest smattering of classical lore. But if this plea hold good with respect to Latin, with

how much greater justice can it be applied to Anglo-Saxon. The latter has not to do with abstract or philosophical terms, but with the plainest words of ordinary conversation, with the roots and fibres of the language which, as Macaulay says, "one hears from his mother or his nurse—the language in which one quarrels, or drives bargains, or makes love." In this its importance is manifest to the most casual observer.

For these reasons—both for its value as a mental discipline, and as a key to much that is difficult and incomprehensible in this language of ours, which at first sight seems so fearfully and wonderfully made—we advise our first year students not to neglect the opportunity now afforded them. To others also who, outside of college walls, are seeking to cultivate their minds, we would recommend the study of Anglo-Saxon as at once entertaining, and in the highest degree useful.

Correspondence.

MESSRS EDITORS,—Seated, on a cold frosty morning, in a country school-house, waiting the arrival of my little flock, in my hand I hold the first number for this year of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, and while perusing its pages, my mind naturally wanders to Dalhousie College, and contemplates the days of yore; when I used to mingle with the happy crowd and while passing from one class-room to another. I imagine I see our worthy Professor of Classics, seated in front of a class of Freshmen, drilling them in some Greek verb, and placing the most difficult parts on the blackboard, or criticising some exercises in Latin prose composition, and occasionally, censuring some sophisticated youth for planting tobacco juice on the well-scrubbed floor. Again, I imagine I spy through the key-hole (while my ear is turned upwards, catching the sounds from within through the ventilator), our Mathematical instructor demonstrating propositions in Euclid, or rationalizing the denominator, or perhaps *demonstrating* some unhappy youth as being irrational and not fit to be a member of any denomination. I imagine I hear other familiar sounds in the next room, and I gaze and listen; and there, with outstretched arm, I behold our venerable Professor of Philosophy, diving into the infinite speculations of Metaphysics, and impressing on the minds of his eager listeners the desirability of being familiar with the different theories of philosophers, and their various views as to the origin of all things. Again, my imaginations soar aloft (or rather to the loft) where I hear the slow but sure voice of our respected Principal, *distilling* useful lessons in Ethics into the minds of the Seniors, as the finishing touch of their undergraduate course, and polishing the four years' storing in Classics, Mathematics, Philosophy, besides other "ologies" and "ics" too numerous to mention. Here I stop imagining, and jot a few realities.

I am happy to see among your staff of Editors a countryman, and one of my old pupils; who has already won laurels at Dalhousie, and trust will so continue until he graduates.

Among your "*personals*" I recognize the familiar names of old College chums, Lippincott and Sedgewick. The former, I understand, has been studying Medicine in the neighboring Republic. Probably we will next hear of him as Surgeon in the American Navy, to fight a second Spanish Armada on the high seas. The latter has settled in our own capital, where you will find many of his kind, making, like my friend Duncan Fraser, black white, and white black. I am glad, however, that he has acted a wise part, like myself, in tying the knot which nothing short of death can sever.

Fearing that I am trespassing on your valuable columns, I conclude with my best wishes for your prosperity.

Yours, &c.,

Lake Ainslie, Dec. 3, 1873.

J. C.

Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 10, 1874.

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THE longest and hardest part of the Session has now begun. We hope our fellow students have returned strengthened for the work. We think the vacation comes just at the right time. In the first two months each student tests his own powers, and gets fairly used to the work. Then he has a fortnight of holidays to revive his energies before beginning the race with his competitors. To succeed in this race honestly, hard and persevering study is necessary. No student without sound health can continue this long, and few can keep up their health without some exercise. Yet it is a melancholy fact that too often as the work grows harder and the need of physical strength greater, the amount of exercise taken grows less; until just before the examinations, when it is most needed, it is wholly given up. Is there any wonder, then, that so many come to these examinations with shaking hands, and bleared eyes, and muddled brains? The universal excuse is want of time. It sounds very well, but there is nothing in it. Two hours a day spent in healthy exercise, are two hours of clear gain. For, six hours of hard, earnest study by a sound mind in unison with a sound body, are worth more than ten of the half awake, half alive, and altogether miserable kind of work which too many consider as evidence of the real student. Every body knows this, but how many act as if they believed it? Few students of Dalhousie, we fear. Hence the wretched state in which some of them leave the College; utterly broken down, mere wrecks, whom a whole summer of recreation hardly puts in order for the next winter's work.

How then is this state of things to be remedied? Simply by each student taking all the exercise he can. Some say walking is quite enough. In fine weather it is good. But there is one strong objection to it; it takes up a great deal of time. One can get as much exercise in half an hour at football as in a two hours' walk. And football itself, noble game though it is, does not suit in stormy weather. We feel ourselves compelled to mention what we think one of the greatest wants of our College—a good gymnasium. We

must have it sometime, and why not this winter? We are aware that the want of a room in the College is a very serious objection; and is it not a disgrace to the institution that dry goods, gas or beer are allowed to take up space invaluable to students? Our worthy governors may think beer better for us than exercise; but we would venture, with deep humility, to suggest that the difficulty of getting it in Halifax is not so great as to make a beer shop in the College necessary. And even though it may be impossible to get a room in the building at present, we do think an Athletic Club should be got up, and proper officers elected. This is the first step; the rest would be sure to follow. If the project were once started it would gather influence.

Another thing which we would like to notice is the state of our debating societies. As usually carried on, are they worth the time they take up? We are afraid the following description is too often true. The opener says something. To which the respondent replies. Then a host follow, seemingly with the same aim in view,—to mix up the arguments they have heard, with the weakest they could find besides, adding a goodly number that have no possible bearing on the subject, and then to express the whole in one gigantic sentence. Interspersed among these are a few who stammer out something which they seem hardly to know themselves, and of which none else has the slightest idea. The critic then closes by practising all the faults he condemns, and adding others peculiarly his own. We are glad to be able to say that this is not always the case. But it is sometimes, and too often. Now, if every student kept in mind what the real object of the society is, would he spend three precious hours every Friday evening in doing little or nothing? We have heard of various plans for making our meetings more interesting. Some of these we believe to be excellent, others are not very suitable. We will propose one simple and most effectual remedy, which each student has it in his power to apply. It would secure the desired results without any change in the bye-laws. We mean earnest, honest, and intelligent study of every subject which comes up for debate.

THE LAST CONQUEST OF THE DOMINION.

(A Paper read by D. McLeod, '74, before the Kritosophian Society, on December 5th.)

British North America, till within a very late period, was divided into several Provinces, each with a Legislature of its own, dependent only on the Home Government. The idea of consolidating all these colonies into one grand whole, has long since been entertained; but it required the commanding genius and diplomatic skill of Sir John A. McDonald to effect successfully so great an undertaking, and call into existence a new power, the Dominion of Canada. The largest and the most important provinces first entered the Union; some heartily, others reluctantly; but none took a more decided stand against it than little Prince Edward Island; upon none were so many influences brought to bear to gain consent. No colony was situated in similar circumstances with her, none had been so ill-treated by the British Government. Upon no other was an attempt made by British ministers to force by the thumb-screws of indirect taxation, compliance with their wishes. Nor were there want-

ing within her own shores those who would fain have her enter the union by coercion; every scheme was tried by those friendly to Canada or otherwise governed by Dominion influence, to bring this stubborn little Island to think favorably of the proposals made to her: the loyalty of the people was called in question and misrepresented; soldiers were brought from Halifax in order to quell what was called a *rebellion* by some of those who happened at the time to be in power. The brave soldiers returned without striking a blow; but the fact that they had to be sent for was urgently pressed upon the British Government as a reason why the Island should be united to Canada. How all this came about I shall endeavor to show.

I have said that the treatment this colony received at the hands of the British Government was not the most commendable. 1st. In reference to the soil. All the lands of P. E. Island were originally given away to certain gentlemen or Noblemen, to whom the Crown was indebted for some original service, either civil or military, on certain conditions, which, of course, were never fulfilled. But, notwithstanding the seeming invalidity of such titles, these gentlemen remained sole proprietors of the soil, and their heirs or successors continue until this day.

The conditions on which the soil was granted were, that it should be settled by British subjects or German Protestants, within a certain period. Not one of the proprietors fulfilled these conditions, in fact the country was not settled for many years after the time they had agreed, yet they continued to hold possession, and when at last emigrants began to come out, they were landed on the shores in such a condition, that it was next to impossible for them to earn a living. They were mostly poor, ignorant of the forest, unaccustomed to such long winters, hemmed in with ice for nearly five months in the year. Of the privations which these early settlers suffered, we to-day can form only a faint conjecture. These people, however, coming from a land where rents were high, and exacted of them all their lives, considered those here demanded of them but trifling, and readily consented, in their ignorance, to pay an annual tribute to those who, in justice, had no right to receive it. At first these proprietors, knowing the poverty of their tenants and eager to get the land settled, were not very exacting. At the same time the rent was accumulating, and as soon as the land was all, or nearly all, taken up, a demand for "back rent" was made; and the Sheriff might now and then be seen marching up to the house of any farmer whose barnyard contained a few more stacks than ordinary. It was impossible for the poor farmer to pay the rent every year, and the "back rent" went on increasing. As soon as it was possible to begin to pay, they did so, either willingly or by compulsion. Such a state continuing for generations, has been a source of the deepest grievance and annoyance to the country. The government of the Island has tried every scheme and plan for the last fifty years, but nothing could be done to relieve the people's burdens. Although the original owners had never fulfilled the conditions on which they held their lands, they were so long in the enjoyment of them that they claimed them by right of possession. When the colony got a legislature of its own, the British Government, in consideration of the fact that there were no crown lands to give to settlers, paid the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor. The "Land Question" remained the burden of Island politics even till the proposals of Confederation came up in 1866. Bill after Bill was presented for the Royal sanction, but they were nearly all rejected. The best that could be got was the "Fifteen Years' Purchase Act," which provided that every tenant living on the estates of those Landlords who subscribed their consent to that Bill, could purchase the fee simple of their farms by paying all the "back rents" due since 1848,

and fifteen years' rents besides. Very many took advantage of this, and became "independent farmers" or free holders. But all were not in a position to do so; and some, even if they were, could not, since their landlords did not agree to be bound by the Act. Hence the grievance was not much mitigated, and at length the people gave up all hope of ever getting redress through the influence of government. Nevertheless the "Land Question" remained as the political hobby-horse of the Island, till Confederation began to be discussed. Before entering upon the transaction which led to Confederation, I will look back upon the improvements and advances made in the country.

Although it was originally intended for German Protestants, it was finally settled by British subjects—Scotch, Irish, English. Most of these came almost in a defenceless state, destitute, not only of the means, but of the knowledge necessary to contend with the forest and the bears. Yet they stoutly went to work with the limited means and knowledge at command, continued to improve them, till the wide spreading wilds became the cultivated fields and thriving settlements, the whole of which, mingled with groves and limited extents of forests, left for use or ornament, now constituted the colony known all over the continent as the "Garden of North America."

Nor were the improvements of the Island confined to its physical development. Men of respectable talents were not wanting to cultivate both the mental and moral fields. The schoolmaster and the press were early set to work; at first, indeed, with clumsy speed, but soon destined to equal, if not for a time to surpass, those of the neighboring provinces. I have already given through the columns of the GAZETTE* a brief outline of the Island school system; I think it, therefore, unnecessary to repeat it here. Her Newspapers have been conducted with varied ability from time to time. But the names of McLean and Whalen are worthy of mention as journalists, of whose literary abilities any country might feel proud. We have also several who have been sipping at the fountain of the muses; none of them, however, have yet attained anything like a world-wide reputation. But although many of the songs of the "Island minstrel," John LePage, may die with the remembrance of the circumstances that gave them birth, I am not disposed to think or believe that posterity will allow them all to fall into oblivion. He has often sung the praises of his native Isle; and long may he continue to amuse and enlighten the homes and streets of her capital (he belongs to the Gas Company.) The farmer, the pride of the country, will let nothing ahead of him. With the march of intellect he must have corresponding improvements in agricultural implements, and by the use of improved ploughs, harrows, mowing and reaping machines, thrashing machines, sewing machines, lessens and eases his labours many fold. Thus it will be seen that the country, notwithstanding disadvantages, has been steadily improving. The people, on the whole, have been contented, happy, and in a very prosperous condition.

In such a condition we find the Island when Confederation became the word over all British America. The government sent its delegates to Ottawa. During their absence, their speeches and the terms offered them, came with lightning speed on the telegraph wires; the newspapers sent these broad cast over the country; the politics, commerce, resources, and social relations of the other colonies, were more discussed and received more attention than ever before. The delegates returned. Some of them were mightily in love with Canada, others of them were equally disgusted. The people were so set, however, against Confederation, that they would rather continue for all time under

the system of Landlordism that still burdens them, than think of entering the Dominion. So universal was the feeling, indeed, that when a few friends of those delegates who favored Confederation, endeavored to get up a memorial, congratulating them in the stand they had taken, among high and low, in town or country, only 94 could be found to sign the document. In the meantime, the landlords became so rigorous in their exactions, that many of the tenants—in fact, whole districts of them—took the Land Question into their own hands. They banded together, offered their terms to the proprietors, and resolved that they would pay no rents till these terms were agreed to. They claimed only justice. They did not take up arms, but when the Sheriff appeared, one blast of a horn, sounded as a warning, would be re-echoed over a whole country-side; every house would be vacated and bolted fast, cattle driven to the woods, and the frightened Sheriff, in an incredibly short time, would be surrounded, followed, and *laughed at* by an army of able-bodied men of all ages, fully equipped with tongues and tin trumpets. This was the famous Tenant League. Men of the highest standing, politically and socially, in the colony, were among the sympathizers, if not direct supporters, of this movement. The government of the day, however, were opposed to it; in favor of Confederation, and, therefore, unpopular. The Sheriff was sent round more frequently than ever, and sometimes he received a less courteous reception from the crowds of tenant leaguers than a government official generally claims. The result was that, through the influence, it is said, of the Colonial Secretary, the government sent to Halifax, asking military assistance to aid in the execution of the laws relative to rent. Two Companies of the 15th Regiment arrived in due time. Barracks were built for their use at an enormous cost, and they were sent out on trucks to follow the Sheriff through the country. Every hill top on their way out was covered with a crowd of hearty farmers, anxious to see the red coats—a sight never seen by any of them since they left the old sod; and, to the young, it was a complete novelty. As soon as the soldiers came within hail, the farmers gave them a hearty cheer, which was most heartily responded to by the veterans. The farmers and soldiers then mingled in conversation, and slowly followed the annoyed Sheriff. The soldiers eulogised the civility of the people, and swore that if a little band like them were to go through Ireland on such an expedition, through roads surrounded with woods and thickets, like those on this Island, every one of them would have been killed; no one being able to tell whence the shot came. This transaction, then, did not enable the Sheriff to be a bit more successful in serving writs than before; but the undertaking cost the country thousands of pounds. And it did not end here. It was represented to the British Government that the country was in such an excited condition, that it was necessary to send for military aid to keep the peace; that it was not in a fit state for self government, and ought, therefore, to be joined to the Dominion by the fiat of Royal Power. A government capable of such acts became odious to the people. It was necessary to have a new election, and the government was completely overthrown. The Tenant-League had put an end forever to the old political party feelings. Catholic and Protestant, Tory and Liberal, united to hurl out of power what they thought a monstrosity in government.

Every member of the New Parliament was pledged against Confederation on any terms. The tenants were left to themselves, to treat with their landlords as best they could, and though the Tenant-League failed in its ultimate object, much good rose out of it. The Home Government seemed exceedingly anxious to unite the Island with the Dominion; every means of persuasion was tried; when this failed, a less dignified attempt was made. I have said that in con-

sideration of the lands being given away to absent proprietors, the British Government undertook, and promised, to pay the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor. This was now withdrawn, and a dispatch came from Downing street, informing the Legislature that if they did not enter into Confederation, they must be prepared to pay the Governor's salary out of their own revenue. This, however, did not change the minds of the people; they assumed the burden without the least sign of indignation. They looked upon it, indeed, as a small trick, which they had always hitherto thought beneath the dignity of the British Government.

Everything after a while became calm. At length the "Better Terms" came up from Ottawa. These did not receive any more favorable reception in the eyes of the people than those before offered, and consequently hardly disturbed the surface of the political waters. One government followed another, making little capital of Confederation, till a Railroad policy was adopted by the government of J. C. Pope, who had always been in favor of union with the Dominion. The people looked upon this as the most effectual, although an indirect instrument, to force them into Union. At the same time it was manifest to them that Confederation was some day inevitable; yet, when Pope and his government came to face the people at the polls, they were thrown out of power. Their successors, known as the Laird and Sinclair government, had to undertake the completion of the railroad; and they not only did this, but added fifty miles more to it. They soon found that 150 miles of a rail road would make the debt of the Island nearly proportionate to that of the Dominion, and, therefore, were now ready to listen to some terms of Confederation. They accordingly went to Ottawa last spring and got terms which they thought to be *better* than the *Better Terms* which the Pope government had previously obtained. On their return they laid the results of their mission before the Country. Every man on the Island was now ready for Confederation; and it was no matter what side of politics was returned to power, they were bound to enter the Union as soon as possible. But the people did not consider that the Party who had opposed both Confederation and Railroad at all times, were quite justifiable in building fifty miles additional and negotiating terms of Confederation more effectual than ever. Consequently, when they appeared before the electors at the polls, they were thrown into the minority. J. C. Pope was again made leader of the government; and as soon as he got the reins of power, he proceeded again to Ottawa, and obtained \$35,000 more than Laird did. The little Island could no longer stand out in the cold. She embraced the opportunity, consented to Union, and the firm knot was tied on the first day of July, 1873.

It may be asked, why the Island stood aloof so long? She had no extensive public works, consequently no debts, and very little taxation; she was isolated for nearly five months in the year, and could not get the benefits of the railroad systems and other public works of the Dominion, for which she would have to pay a share. In these circumstances she could not enter Union on equitable terms. But as soon as she had a debt to bear equal to her neighbors', she was quite willing to make a company affair of it, and run the risk of consequences.

A CHANGE.—The rooms in the lower flat of the College, lately occupied by the Carboline Gas Co., are now converted into a Dry Goods' Store.

A FRESHMAN who has evidently been imposed upon during the holidays, says he fails to see the point of a joke when he is the butt.

Dalhusiensia.

ONE of our students is reduced to such poverty that it is said he can cut his toenails without taking off either his shoe or stocking.

THE Juniors in the Greek Class were horrified the other day, on being told that they must read the 2nd Philippic of Demosthenes in two lessons.

SOME time ago, two adventurous students made up their minds to pay a friendly visit to the Turtle-Grove Brewery. And then was enacted the following little drama: Students, with faltering steps, approach the door, and gently unlatching it, steal a quiet peep. Out rush two seedy-looking individuals, with countenances not the most benevolent, nor words the most honeyed: and exeunt explorers in great trepidation.

IN the Chemistry Room. *Prof.*—"And now I am going to set free some Chlorine. This gas has a great affinity for metals. If any of you have any jewellery about you—" *Rapid disappearance of watch chains and scarf-pins.*

IN wishing the students the compliments of the season, one Professor interpolated no less than three "etceteras." These are interpreted to stand for a "bust," a "spree," and a "drunk."

A SOPHIE, by the Doctor's orders, recently purchased a bottle of oil and a bottle of whiskey, to help the former down. In his own words, "the Oil hangs on tip-top, but there's no last in the Whiskey."

Medical Student at the Dinner Table.—"Well, first there is the mastication, then, if the oesophagus be sufficiently lubricated, the consequence is deglutition—" Freshie turns pale and gasps for air.

THOSE of the students who spent the Christmas Holidays in the city, enjoyed some excellent games of foot-ball. We hope that this noble game will be maintained as actively as ever for the rest of the season. Students generally give it up at the time when they most require it.

WE are glad to see that the Kritosophian Debating Society have introduced a new element into their meetings,—viz: the reading of essays. Once a month some previously-appointed member delivers an address before the Society.

ON account of getting two extra days holidays before Christmas, one class is said to be so busy that stamping is interdicted, because it is such a waste of time! That class must be a very funny one, or else extremely "hard up."

At the recent Teachers' Convention held in Dalhousie College, in the Class Room known as the Library, many students were present, and were delighted to meet some old chums. One of the leading spirits of the Convention was Mr. A. H. McKay, B. A. of Dalhousie, whom every student knows, by report, if not by personal acquaintance. Mr. McKay read before the Convention a masterly dissertation on "Mathematics," which was highly applauded. It was worthy of its writer, and the writer worthy of his Alma Mater. Upon motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to him, and also it was unanimously agreed that this essay be published in the *Journal of Education*. Mr. McKay was still further honoured by being elected President of the Convention by a large majority. We heartily congratulate him. Some gentlemen attempted to make him out a graduate of the Normal School! But that institution is not going to get the credit of his talents. Mr. McKay is a

GRADUATE OF DALHOUSIE; and in rearing up and sending forth such men may be seen the good work which our College is doing.

Clippings.

REV. G. M. GRANT'S exposure of the management of Schools in Halifax, did not come a day too soon. We have often called attention to the anomaly of our having no Trustees (or "Commissioners") elected by ourselves. It is high time this law were changed, and we cannot believe that it can be tolerated much longer. Halifax pays enormously for schools, and the results are not adequate. There are abuses about the system which should in all conscience be swept away. We hope and believe that in no part of the Province is there so large a proportion of inefficient teachers. Worst of all: we have no High School.—*Presbyterian Witness.*

IN the last Report of the School Inspector for Pictou County, is contained the following paragraph, which we clip from the *Eastern Chronicle*:—"The Pictou Academy fully maintained its wonted efficiency. There were 120 pupils in attendance during winter, and 115 in summer. In the latter 31 studied Latin, 16 Greek, 30 French, 2 Italian, 100 practical Mathematics, 40 Navigation, 116 Algebra, 100 Geometry, 80 Eng. Literature, 50 Nat. Philosophy, 12 Ancient History, besides the more ordinary branches. Again have two of its students won scholarships in Dalhousie College." The rising generation in Pictou have evidently a great deal to answer for.

EXCHANGES.

SINCE last issue of the GAZETTE we have received the following Exchanges for the first time:—

College Papers:

The Aurora, Albert College, Belleville, Ontario; *College Courier*, Monmouth; *The High School Budget*, Syracuse High School; *The Geyser*, Wabash College, Indiana; *Leaflets of Thought*, Mrs. Cuthbert's School, St. Louis; *The Tyro*, Canadian Literary Institute, Ontario; *Qui Vive*, Shurteff College, Upper Alton, Ill.

Non-College Papers:

The Albion, New York; *The Evangelist*, San Francisco, Col.; *The Canada Farmer*, Toronto; *The Mayflower*, Halifax; *British American Presbyterian*, Toronto.

Criticism of Exchanges crowded out for this issue.

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Payments to be made to L. H. Jordan, Financial Secretary, and all communications to be addressed to "Editors DALHOUSIE GAZETTE," Halifax, Nova Scotia. Anonymous communications can receive no attention.

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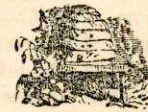
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