

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

ORA ET LABORA.

Vol. VI.

HALIFAX, N S., FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

No. 7.

PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE.

A LARGE proportion of our students come to our Nova Scotian Universities with a deplorable lack of preparation: some from a mistaken idea, or, it may be, entire ignorance of the nature of College work; and others, because impatient of long delay, and anxious to be set free from the drudgery of the school room as soon as possible. As a consequence, sufficient attention is not paid to elementary education: and herein consists one of the greatest possible drawbacks to any College; for while narrowness of means, party jealousy, misplaced denominational zeal, may affect it externally, want of preparation on the part of students strikes a blow at its very root and centre. Is it not asking too much of any University that it should take in the ignoramus and send forth the genius, commence with the "know-nothing" and turn out the deep scholar? And yet, when it does not fulfil these preposterous demands, it comes in for a large amount of blame. And hence it is that so much discredit is brought upon many Halls of Learning: a young man, whose calling is the plough, enters, a fool; and when he goes forth as he came, his friends point the finger at the College, and say, Behold its efficiency! For every student bears upon his shoulders the reputation of his Alma Mater, and, rightly or wrongly, by him its character is judged of. And thus one well-meaning fool may do more harm to a College than a dozen outright enemies.

Now, when a student comes down to such a University as Dalhousie, without the requisite preparation, after giving the Professors the trouble, sooner or later, of "plucking" him, what is he to do? Ashamed to go back to a trade, unwilling to give up college life, and unable to go on as an Undergraduate, he generally decides upon taking sundry classes as a "general student." And now all responsibility seems taken off his shoulders: he may get up his work or not, attend his classes or not, just as he likes, for now he is not required to go up to the Annual Examinations, upon which the standing of the Undergraduate depends. With no incentive to action, save his conscience, with no possible certificates, prizes, or degrees, to which he may look forward, his progress in study is at least very problematical. Therefore, though there are many praiseworthy exceptions, for the dullards of a College, always look among the "Generals."

It is, therefore, certainly a thing to be deeply regretted, that many who, if possessed of more patience, or better facilities for education, would become admirable students, so often come to our Colleges to turn out practical failures. And this great waste of possible genius—to say nothing of time and money—is, in the majority of cases, owing to insufficient preparation for a University Curriculum. The curse of Colleges in this Province is, not so much their number, though that is a very great drawback; nor yet faction spirit or partiality on the part of those in power, though that is a crying evil, at least to Dalhousie; nor even poverty and ill-will, though very perplexing obstacles, but, the fact of many of our students coming to our Halls without having laid the

necessary foundation of learning. Great are the evils that this entails; it means, putting a premature veto upon their progress in knowledge; it means, time and talents wasted to the world; it means, giving dissatisfaction to all parties concerned, and lowering the prestige of the College. But for this want of previous education, the Entrance Examination of our Provincial Universities would be placed on a higher basis—at the same time, the efficiency of a College is not to be measured by its standard of Matriculation, which is comparatively low, even in many of the best Institutions of the age. Yet it is evident that a more intimate knowledge of, for example, Classics and Mathematics, might be reasonably expected from applicants for admission into our Colleges. The necessity would then be done away with, of talented Professors commencing with the elements of these subjects: drudgery that dampens the enthusiasm of both instructor and instructed, and necessitates the expenditure of time too valuable for "school-work." Yet, as things are at present, were Professors to take for granted such an amount of knowledge on the part of new students as would be necessary to make advanced work intelligible, they would sometimes be greatly deceived. Therefore, in the Entrance Examinations of Dalhousie, a comparatively low standard has been adopted, which, however, is rigidly adhered to, and which necessitates at least a fair amount of knowledge: and it is not until after the first two or three weeks, in the case of Freshmen, that College Work in most of the Classes really begins.

Now it is natural to ask, Why do students come to our Universities with insufficient preparation? Is it their fault or their misfortune? Evidently in some cases the former, and in others the latter. Stimulated by some one's example, they may leave the school-room prematurely, and rush to College with rashness; or, again, they may not have exerted themselves so as sufficiently to understand the nature of University life, the duties it entails and knowledge it presupposes; or even in defiance of these things, and with full forewarning, they may start off, hoping that the regulations are not so strict as the Calendar would make them believe, or that they can scrape along somehow—in which case, after being "plucked," ample opportunity is afforded them of reflecting upon their past simplicity. But in other cases students come to College unprepared, for the simple reason, that if they are to come at all, it can only be in this state, owing to the impossibility of getting a good training at school.

We can, therefore, assign two reasons for the want of sufficient previous preparation, of which the first is:

Leaving the Schoolroom prematurely. Every person who knows anything about Colleges, will readily understand that it is impossible for them to ground and drill the student in elementary work—work which belongs to the schoolroom, and which the College takes for granted as already acquired. Therefore, if a young man be not well grounded in primary education before entering upon a University course, scarce any amount of subsequent study will make up for this

serious deficiency. While, in our opinion, more drill, more revisals, and periodic examinations, might be advantageously introduced into some of our Colleges without, in the least, lowering their reputation or efficiency, it is evident that want of time precludes their being used to any great extent. Yet a pupil is deprived of such training only to his own great injury.

In some countries, we hear of boys who, when they give up the School for the College, can read and write Latin almost as well as their mother tongue. No such charge can be made against any of our Nova Scotia youths. Now, we are not aware that in intelligence and aptitude for learning, the boys of this Province yield to those of any other country whatever. And yet many who enter College are notoriously deficient in the very branches of which the more advanced schools make a specialty. The chief reason for this is, their not remaining long enough at such schools. It is, probably, natural in a young undeveloped country like ours, that, while in some other lands, the rising generation breathe the very atmosphere of study, here parents should be anxious to get their boys through the schoolroom as rapidly as possible, that they may at once enter upon some trade or occupation. Yet in view of the importance of the case, we might expect the father who designs his boy for a professional life, to dismiss all prejudices, and instead of urging him on to too great extremes, give him time to become well grounded in the elementary branches of education: a course which neither party would ever regret. Leaving the school-tasks and school-drill at too early an age, has injured many a promising boy, and made College-work, as far as he is concerned, simply unintelligible.

But, secondly, it is often through no fault of theirs that students come to College unprepared. They are to be pitied, not blamed: their unfitness is due to the *Want of Efficient Schools*. Sadly, sadly, is Nova Scotia deficient in this respect. In some few favoured spots, such as Pictou, a tolerable course of education may be acquired. But in the greater majority of places, with our metropolis as a centre, the most zealous young man can not be fitted for College. Such is the School system of this eccentric and unique city, that it is a very rare thing for a Haligonian to become a Prizeman. For him to turn out even passably in his classics, necessitates prolonged previous attendance at some private classical school, or a few terms at Dalhousie as a general student, before entering upon an Undergraduate course, and competing with lads from the country parts of the Province. And not only in Halifax, but more or less throughout the whole Province is felt the want of some good High School. The County Academies may prepare candidates pretty thoroughly for Teachers' Examinations; but as to preparing for College, everything about them is satisfactory but the results. We have yet to see the good student in Dalhousie who has learnt nothing more than what a County Academy can afford. The three Special Academies are undoubtedly excellent in their way. They have already been discussed in a previous number of the GAZETTE. To anyone who has given due consideration to the subject, they can never obviate the necessity of a Central High School in the City of Halifax, in connection with Dalhousie College.

A perfect educational system is like a continuous chain: the first link is the ABC department, the succeeding links are the various attending grades, till finally the last is reached, which we may denominate the University. Thus the first step is the A.B., the last the B.A. We do not thereby mean to say that education ends with graduating, but simply that it is necessarily the culminating point of the educational system. The link immediately below the College should be a special preparatory school. Intimate and vital is the connection between these two institutions. The one is necessary

for the other. But, in Nova Scotia, the chain is incomplete. One of the most important links is missing. The University is detached from the other grades of learning: a great gap intervenes. It is, in reality, just as impossible for a boy after leaving an ordinary school, to be fit for College-work, pure and simple, as if after the alphabet he were put into some advanced reading book. What skilful hand, then, will forge and fit this requisite link?

IN A WHALE BOAT.

"Necquicquam quam Deus abscondit
Prudens oceanis dissociabili,
Terras si tamen impiae,
Non tagenda rates transiliant vada."

READER, were you ever in a Whale-boat? To an "old tar" its mechanism is simple; so are its actions; to a "land-lubber" the former is profound, the latter mysterious. I have known men to weather wild storms in such a boat, and have myself sunk one 50 yards from the shore in a slight breeze. The generality of people know quite enough about "whalers," but if there are any remaining that do not, they will find it to their advantage to read on. For a description of said craft I refer them to their Almanacs and Treatises on Navigation, as the *conduct* of my "impia ratis" has quite confused my ideas of its *structure*. Certainly never did an ocean steamship, coaster, or any species of floating conveyances ever so demean itself as did the "Wigwam" on and after leaving the harbour of the small town of Guysboro', in the Year of Grace 18—. But I must premise a few words. One fine day in June my friend Jim and I determined to visit Cape Canso, and explore that fog-enveloped corner of Nova Scotia, which had always seemed so mysterious a place to us, both from its position and the stories we heard of it. We did not leave at sunrise as excursionists generally do, but slept our sleep as usual, and after breakfast began preparatiours for our voyage. Said preparations were neither many nor of much importance. The boat was fitted out as a boat generally is, then Jim undertook to provide the "provender for the asses," and I on the other hand to furnish cigars and the "et ceteras." The cigars I smuggled into the boat, under the noses of inquisitive by-standers, as "thole-pins." Jim had no trouble on this score, except a mean fellow on the wharf afterwards erroneously reported that a certain large bottle did not contain "Raspberry," but something mighty like "Mountain Dew." All I have to say on this head is that if it did it was the boat and not we that imbibed its contents, an assertion which the gentle reader will see has an air of probability, from its actions all through this momentous time. For myself, I did then and do now assert that its extravagant freaks could only be accounted for and excused on the supposition of its being in a state of intoxication bordering on delirium tremens.

In a few hours we were ready to embark, all preparations having been made, and a fond good-bye given to those whom we thought might be saddened at the prospects of our never returning. Jim had been to sea before and I had not, but I stoutly claimed the right of steering our fragile craft through the stormy sea, and left all meaner things to him. We offered no sacrifices and made no libations to Neptune, but quietly hoisted the sails and shoved off from the wharf. With the wind that there was, had we a good and sober boat, we might easily have got out of the harbour, but we had not, and consequently had to "tack." One hour of this business brought us to the wharf where we started, after having run down a small boat, and having been saved from a collision with a schooner only by a miracle. I blamed Jim for the whole of it, and he as emphatically laid the charge at my door. So I undertook to "run the machine" solely on my

own account, but got back to the wharf again after infinite trouble and fatigue, and with the pleasure of reflecting that I would get initiated into the mysteries of the Admiralty Court before many days of my "blessed existence" had passed away.

But I had one consolation: Jim said that in all his experience he never saw the like of this, and resolved to try his luck with a crazy boat and adverse winds. By one of those occurrences that admit of no explanation, in twenty minutes we were off Guysboro', outward bound.

Guysboro'—

"Wham ne'er a town surpasses
For honest men and bonny lasses,"

lay right behind us, situated on Milford Haven at the head of Chedabucto Bay. This is the county town of the county which bears the same name, and has a population of about 1000. Its harbour, like another place that we read of, is very safe and beautiful when you get into it, but is very difficult to enter. A bar extending some four or five hundred yards completely blocks up the entrance, with the exception of a narrow space of about one hundred feet nearest to the town. At low tide it is impossible for anything like large craft to make its way through this opening but when the tide is high vessels of considerable size meet with little difficulty. One of Her Majesty's Men-of-war ships has been known to enter in safety, causing as was to be expected, as much excitement in the place as the ship of Christopher Columbus did in the town of Palos on its return from the discovery of the "New World."

Inside the harbour are several very beautiful small islands, each one worthy of being the country seat of a rich gentleman, or the domain of any misanthropic being who might wish to imitate the example of Robinson Crusoe. On a calm moon-lit night in summer, nothing can surpass the beauty and loveliness of the scenery all around. Away up the River, which finds its exit here to the Sea, are to be seen pretty white cottages shining here and there among the trees and hedges that line its banks. On the Manchester side, opposite the village, a range of hills rises abruptly from the beach, covered in some places with the remains of the "forest primeval," in other places displaying fields of grain, bending and waving to the slightest breeze, while orchards and hedge rows here and there complete the scene.

Back of the town, and opposite to this again, the country offers a great contrast. Rocks, shrubs and stunted trees alone are found, extending for some distance, but nevertheless the scene possesses an air of wildness and grandeur. Such is a slight account of the beautiful surroundings of this quiet and placid sheet of water, which can more easily be remembered by those who have seen it, and imagined by those who have not, than described by any attempt of mine.

The town itself is situated much like the "City of the Tiber," on seven hills, and there is only wanting a pair of Consuls, a Pontifex Maximus, and a few other trifling appurtenances to complete the analogy. There are some 14 or 15 stores, a public hall, an academy, four churches, besides various private cottages and residences. There are no manufactories of importance, with the exception of a Tannery and a Carding Mill. The country around it is not very well suited for agriculture, except some few districts along the rivers. Trade principally consists in an exchange of goods and provisions for fish with the people along the shore, and the produce of the country.

Of all places on this earth, Guysboro' is the best to live in. There is no dust to blind you; no stupid side-walks, the whole width of the street being free to every one—even to geese; no drains with odorous and disgusting exhalations; no water rates to annoy or plague you; no gas to fill your rooms and make your sleep heavy and unrefreshing; no

policeman to quarrel with because you prefer to walk zig-zag to walking in a straight line, or to chase you if you happen to straighten your leg in the presence of a natural enemy; no brass band to deafen you, and last though not least, thank heaven, there are few church bells to disturb you on Sunday mornings, and make a day of rest hideous with their noise and clamour.

But the "Wigwam," under the superintendence of Jim, has been doing very well for some time, and one of the prettiest and most agreeable of the small towns of Nova Scotia is already fading out of sight. On the right we have passed Peart's Cove and Salmon River—a long tract of rough, rugged country, while on the left Red Head and the shore running round to Port Mulgrave, and the Strait of Canso is sinking below the waves.

Jim, at my urgent request, again entrusted me with the boat, but no sooner had he done so than it began its old freaks. At one time it was seemingly determined to run directly to the shore, at another it was of an exactly opposite opinion, and was going off at right angles to it at a furious rate, now and then lurching and taking in water, and ripping and tearing the seines, that were set in the bay by fishermen, in a most vicious manner. By and by it behaved better and we passed Crow Harbour and Fox Island (of which we will see more on our return) and Jim told me that we were nearing Canso. I thought so from the fog and cold that we were now entering. A fog whistle some miles off from Canso was also busy in proclaiming the same piece of intelligence.

It was growing dark when we were approaching Canso Harbour. Jim was busy, as I thought, watching for fish, when suddenly he exclaimed "breakers ahead!" "All right," was the reply. But it was not all right, for it took the combined exertions of both of us to keep our boat off "them" breakers. Surely, thought I, if this craft were not in skilful hands it would soon go to destruction. The wind was rising, and Jim ordered me ahead to take down the jib. Confound the jib, it could not be persuaded to come down until I was completely splashed and drenched. Finally the "Wigwam," with her precious cargo, was safe in Canso Harbour, and tied to Mr. Whitman's wharf.

We were now about to go ashore and repair to the hotel, having labelled all the bottles "Poison," and the "Wigwam" itself "Right side up, handle with care." In a few minutes we were comfortably seated at supper, enjoying many nice things, among which I have a faint idea that there were lobsters. After tea we separated in different directions, to meet again at 10 o'clock, without finding anything but fog, rocks and lobsters. Greater men than Jim and I visited greater places than Cape Canso and foundless. For instance, Charles Dickens visited "the Glorious Republic of the United States," and discovered nothing save that they made good "whiskey cocktail." We strolled round there for some time together, and visited the lobster head quarters—the factory.

In the meantime Jim and I thought of the morning, and recollected that we would have to make an early start. After giving instructions for breakfast, and requesting to be called at 3 a.m., we retired for the night. We roomed together for the first and in all probability the last time in our lives. The occurrences of the day afforded us matter to discuss for some half hour or so, I naturally dilating at length upon the mysterious conduct of our boat, and Jim fully sympathising with me.

But just then the clock in an adjacent room had struck "the wee sma' hour ayont the twal," so Jim and I having settled as to our respective share of sheets and blankets said our "lay me down," and like two jolly Grecian heroes betook ourselves to slumber and the gods.

Dalhousie Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

EDITORS.

D. S. FRASER, '74. W. B. ROSS, '75.
J. C. HERDMAN, '74. J. McG. STEWART, '76
JOHN A. LANIGAN, '76.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

I. McDOWALL, '75 F. H. BELL, '76
J. W. SMITH, '76 R. CHAMBERS, '77.
L. H. JORDAN, '75, *Secretary.*

CONTENTS.

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Preparation for College..... | 49 |
| In a Whale Boat..... | 50 |
| Editorials..... | 52 |
| Our Best Friend..... | 53 |
| Halifax Schools..... | 54 |
| Stewiacke..... | 54 |
| Remembrance (Poetry)..... | 55 |
| Dallusienia..... | 55 |
| Clippings..... | 55 |

By a mistake on the part of our Financial Committee, some of our Subscribers will have received a copy of No. 5, instead of No. 6, of the GAZETTE. Any Subscriber who has not yet received No. 6, shall have it sent to him, if he send his name to the Editors.

It was remarked by Rev. G. M. Grant at the close of Mr. E. Jenkin's lecture on "The England of To-day," that it was a strong proof of England's greatness, that one of her sons could stand forth and truthfully and fearlessly portray, to the people of another nation, the evils and abuses which exist in England. This remark now applies to us. Our Alma Mater, which we respect with the highest respect, and love with no small love, possesses such a character, that her sons can, without diminishing her greatness, expose her defects.

We have occasionally alluded to some of the defects which exist about our Institution. We have noticed the want of sufficient room; the need of better and larger buildings, and of more apparatus. We have held up the *building*, with some of its contents, to the gaze of outsiders; and have shown them, to some extent, the state of the "old freestone pile," known as Dalhousie College.

Some of our friends, and not a few of our enemies, have looked upon our conduct as deteriorating in its effects upon the College. We cannot see it in this light. When writing of the abuses existing in and about our Institution, we never once mentioned anything relative to the efficiency or non-efficiency of the Instruction here imparted. Of that we can write only in the highest terms of commendation. Our Professors are second to none in the Dominion, and a more thorough training than that given in Dalhousie, cannot be obtained elsewhere in Nova Scotia. These are assertions which a careful comparison of Acadia, Kings, Mount Allison, and St. Francis Xavier Colleges, with Dalhousie, will plainly

prove. The comparison must not be made superficially, or by one unacquainted with College life. Compare the work really done, not merely as set down in the Calendars; for, we believe, the other Colleges do not even pretend to adhere to the course prescribed in their Calendars. Our Professors are very particular in that respect. The work set down in our Calendars is thoroughly performed.

Then compare the Examination Papers of the several Colleges; but until they all publish such papers, this cannot be easily done. Our Sessional Examinations are strictly conducted. Let no one suppose that, though we exposed the dishonesty practiced by a few of our less conscientious students, at small Examinations, which have no effect upon their standing, that such conduct is allowed at our Sessional Examinations. Then all questions are answered in writing, excepting what must necessarily be given orally by Medicals. Two students of the same class are not allowed to sit together. Students bring nothing to the Examination room but pen and ink. The Professors have only to move around, and keep their "eyes open"; and if they find any *attempts* at "cribbing," the student so caught is summoned before the Senate, and if proved guilty, loses his year.

But we cannot stay longer expatiating upon the thoroughness of the education here received. Perhaps some people will not believe us. Well, if so, we can only wish they had some experience of it, for it is universally admitted that "experience teaches fools," and we are inclined to believe that there are some to whom nothing else will teach truth. We are really sorry, but must suppose that it cannot be well remedied.

We find many persons far more ready to believe us when we write anything *apparently* unfavourable to our College, than when we commend its good qualities. Even in this there is some consolation. We can abuse all that deserves abuse, without mentioning the educational element, and by doing so, bring our Institution into notice. People are sure to see defects. As these defects are connected only with our *building*, and not with the system of education carried on within its walls, we feel justified in showing the Province how poorly it has provided suitable means for giving, with full advantage, such a thorough course of liberal education as that given in Dalhousie. Our Governors, we believe, have done, and are doing, all in their power to promote the welfare of Dalhousie. We cannot expect them alone to do all that we would wish to see accomplished. Our building has defects, and we consider it a duty to expose these defects, in order that they may be known, and, perhaps, remedied. Though we do not believe in the transmigration of souls, yet we hope before many years the soul of Dalhousie will leave the old decaying body, and pass into a new habitation, where it will continue the good work here begun, and shed a broad and shining light over the face of our fair Province.

THE *Provincial Wesleyan* referring, among other things, to the brewery, triumphantly asks if this is the College that was to eclipse all others in Nova Scotia. Yes, dear *Wesleyan*, this is the College; and more—this is the identical College

that *has* eclipsed all others in Nova Scotia. It has done so in ten years, in the face of many difficulties, with a smaller Provincial Grant than was given to any other College, without a special Academy, and with the spite of the *Provincial Wesleyan* to boot. The want of accommodation referred to is due merely to the rapidly increasing number of Students. If the increase had been like that of Mount Allison College, the want would never have been felt. In short, the *Wesleyan* affords melancholy proof that even a religious paper, when it wishes to gain its own ends, can sometimes stoop to insinuate what it cannot prove. So we will continue to believe, with all sensible people who know anything about the matter, that the Governors of Dalhousie, for the way in which they have always acted towards the College, deserve the thanks of all its students, and of every friend of education in Nova Scotia.

Our attention has been called to an *apparent* misstatement in our last issue. We stated that each of the five denominational Colleges receives a grant of \$1400 per annum from the Government of Nova Scotia. We have been asked to make the following correction: that Acadia College gets only \$400 instead of \$1400. By referring to the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, page U. 2, we find that the grants given by our Government are as follows, Kings, \$1400; Dalhousie (Arts) \$1000; Acadia \$400; St. F. Xavies \$1400; Mount Allison \$400; St. Mary's \$1400.

Though Acadia and Mount Allison Colleges are here set down as each receiving only \$400, yet it will be found by again referring to the Superintendent's Report, page T. 4, that Horton College Academy, virtually a part of the College, receives a yearly grant of \$1000. And again on page T. 5, we find that Mount Allison Male Academy, and Female Academy each gets \$500 yearly, in all \$1000. Considering these respective Academies and Colleges as virtually inseparable, we made the statement referred to in our last issue. We trust the above explanation will be satisfactory, as it is strictly in accordance with facts.

OUR BEST FRIEND.

How absurd, notwithstanding it be so generally accepted, is the dictum which denounces all but the virtuous as unfit for the exercise of friendly functions! The professed moralist would have us believe that, what is friendship among the good is only a conspiracy among the wicked, and it is remarkable how many of us do not hesitate to coincide with him. When the question is asked, as to who makes the best friend, the moralist, and all of his class, astonished at there being any doubt in the matter, cry out "Why the good of course," and yet if we investigate the case for ourselves we find that such is far from being the true answer. In fact your good man is of all persons in the world, the very worst to make a friend of. Your friend is the man who, to do you some service, will overstep the bounds of duty, and it may be do a great deal of wrong. He must, if needs be, so far from speaking truth against you, lie through a deal-board to extricate you from an awkward position. If the true friend is to be best known *in incertis rebus*, it is

precisely in these circumstances that the good fail you. For, should a small leaven of doubtfulness be present in your affair, no matter how pressing may be your demand for help, the good man will delay, less that leaven should have leavened the whole, and his fingers be soiled. There is in fact nothing which he will not prefer to his friend, the truth, the right, the honest, and any trifle almost, except perhaps his purse. Lest we be misunderstood we beg to assure our readers, that no intention could be farther from us than of railing against the good, in so saying we have only attempted to show what many people expect from those upon whom they are pleased to confer the title and privileges of friend.

The species of the genus friend are infinite, there are friends and friends, the business friend, the college friend, the social friend, each chosen according to the best knowledge of the circumstances in which each is preferable, and each necessary in his way. No single friend could satisfy all the conditions we would impose upon him, were we dependent upon him alone. To be without a friend at all, would be to turn misanthrope. Friends we *must* have, they are an indispensable ingredient in our cup of happiness, it of course being granted that we have been judicious, and correspondingly fortunate in our selection. There is nothing that contributes more to social and general happiness, than such a clear understanding of the matter as ensures a proper choice. Everything depends upon the occasion. When you have found a man serviceable in one difficulty do not hasten to the conclusion that he will be so in all, and forthwith install him triumphantly in the position of guide, or mentor as the case may be. Do not lean too heavily on your new found staff, until by experience you are assured of its ability to support your weight under all circumstances. It is just upon this rock that so many men are wrecked, they place too much confidence in comparative strangers, because their appearances are prepossessing, and then, when it is perhaps too late, they discover that their confidence has been misplaced, and the power entrusted has been abused.

But there is one friend, within the reach of every man, who never turns out an imposter if properly treated, a friend who is (humanly speaking), whether for purposes of utility or happiness, beyond all comparison the best that man can have, and that is *man's own self*. The reasons for this preference are multifarious. "Donec eris felix," says Obid: you may have friends by the score, but when the heavens are grown cloudy, then are you left alone. And it is at this juncture that man bestirs himself in his own behalf most effectually, and self then proves itself to be not only the last, but also the best friend that man can have: and herein consists the great folly of suicide inasmuch as it deprives the victim of the only friend misfortune has left to him. If it be the especial part of a true friend to speak well of the men to whom he is attached, there are few who do not both think and speak more of themselves than of any other person. Here again is self our best friend, and so on to the end of the chapter. And in return for all this we do love it most dearly. Inasmuch that the Biblical commandment to love your neighbor as yourself has been perverted from its original meaning, and would now seem to require a slight addition in order to be fully intelligible to modern comprehensions. It is now read: "Love your neighbor as yourself indeed, but after yourself." The worst of it is that in loving "self," there should be so frequent a liability to do so not wisely but too well. The greatest mistakes in life arise out of a misapplication of this rule. Can a man who in pursuit of pleasure neglects his own well-understood interests be called his own friend? Surely not. The drunkard ruining his health in vulgar debauchery, the gambler wasting his fortune in a selfish craving after excitement, the miser passing a life of endless toil, care, and

anxiety in laying up wealth which he cannot hope to enjoy, are they not rather their own worst enemies? But the wise man in friendship to himself will abstain from every action that does not conduce to his well being. It is his desire to make everybody love and respect him, and in order to that consummation, he will never indulge in injurious or disagreeable vices, in one word he will never strive for a present gratification which must bring with it future pain. By pursuing such a course of action he will prove not only his own best friend, but a valuable acquisition to the rest of his species.

J. M. O.

HALIFAX SCHOOLS.

MANY of the City Schools have good buildings, and good teachers, yet it is a remarkable fact that no pupil is ever prepared in these schools to enter college. Children are liable to be sent from one school to another, according to the fancy of their parents, at the end of every quarter. If a teacher is possessed of that strictness and power to enforce good discipline, which is essential to every well-conducted institution, the parents soon begin to think that he is an oppressive tyrant, and they send their dear ones to some person who seems to be more kindly disposed, without having any regard to the manner or matter of instruction. The hapless youth may have had a trial of every school in the city, yet leave them all without knowing that diligent application is necessary to the acquisition of knowledge. He admires the wisdom of his father for allowing him to migrate from place to place in search of the best teachers, and perpetuates his example.

From these circumstances teachers soon discover that their interests and the conscientious discharge of their duties are distinct, and opposed to each other. They must, therefore, accommodate themselves to the notions with which they are surrounded, or give up the practice of their profession within the city. The parents become absolutely indifferent to any school in particular; and thus any teacher may keep his place, and enjoy a good reputation, as long as he is accommodating. The schools of the best teachers may be nearly vacant; while those of others are crowded, whose chief qualification is, that they have the happy faculty of impressing upon pupils and their indulgent parents, the notion that great advances in knowledge are made, while really they are only heaping up a mass of rubbish upon a rotten foundation; they give a superficial smattering of many subjects, but no substantial grounding in anything.

It would not be difficult to reduce the present custom of managing schools to a good system. Let the city be divided into school districts or sections, with a school-house in some central part of each. Let the teachers be engaged yearly by the parents of children within this district, or by trustees elected annually by them. Children should not be permitted to go to any school (of the same standing) but the one in the section within which they live. Where the schools are graded, a wider range may be given to the higher departments. The High School, when it comes, should receive pupils from all parts of the city as soon as, upon examination, they are found qualified to enter it.

In this way the people would be led to take an interest in the schools. Having no longer the full range of the city, they would begin to look upon some school as their own; they would be careful that their schoolhouses were as comfortable as those of their neighbours; they would provide the best possible teachers; and thus a wholesome rivalry would be set up among the citizens, which would tend to elevate the status of their education; and the schools of Halifax would no longer be beneath comparison with those

of the remotest back woods, where schools receive better attention and do more good than ever they did in the capital, or ever will do in it, as long as it continues, as at present, without a proper School System.

D. M. L.

STEWIACKE.

Do not be disheartened, friend, if you cannot "frame to pronounce" this strange looking word. Spell it, at least, and I promise not to use any more so worrying to the lingual organs. I venture to assert that you will toss up the same letters a great number of times before they will present themselves in a more awkward position.

Allow me by way of description to give you a few ideas respecting this part of our Province. *First*, as to the word itself. Its *origin* is doubtful. I believe however that the commonly received opinion is, that the name was given by the Indians. Be that as it may, it has the name now, and no doubt intends to hold on by it. Now a word about the *pronunciation*. As various as are men's plans for erecting a hen roost, so are their ways of pronouncing this word. I have seen stalwart bold looking men, who scarcely knew what it was to be defeated, come up to this word and make a sudden stand. Sometimes they concentrated their energies and made a desperate attempt. They curled up the lip, set the teeth at a proper distance apart, rolled up the tongue, and "let her go." And what was the effect? Nothing but a very bad *Stew*. I once heard a respectable man give it the disreputable name of *sow wack*. Some again who talk faster call it *swack*, while others more enlightened call it *Stwack*. And I understand that after a person has spent a term at Dalhousie College, he give the full pronunciation *Stew-e-ack*, which I think is about right.

Now, one word about its *historical* connection. This I might divide into ecclesiastical, civil, and perhaps *profane*, but I cannot now enter into details. The first log cabin was erected about a century ago. I have been told that at one time there was but one woman in the whole district. In this respect Stewiacke resembled Paradise. Shortly after a man by the name of Adam ———, lived there. In this respect also it "reminds one" of the aforesaid garden. In fact, it has never been satisfactorily proved to my mind that this was not Eden. But as this belongs more properly to ancient history, I pass on and leave this opinion to be accepted or rejected according as your own judgment inclines you.

Time, here, as elsewhere, has wrought a great change. Instead of the one woman, hundreds of fair faces meet the traveller who happens to be fortunate enough to pass that way. Instead of the log cabin he sees the whole country for a distance of 30 miles studded with respectable looking houses. Three large churches at moderate intervals show that the people are not regardless of their spiritual interests. Now we find many points in which it forms a contrast to Eden.

Firstly, It is a very poor place for *apples*.

Secondly, The bears are terribly destructive to the domestic animals. These carnivorous brutes sometimes appearing in squads of a dozen, more or less.

Thirdly, There is a large cheese factory in operation during the summer months, which I may add supports some 40 or 50 hogs.

Fourthly, It has a spinning factory and steam tannery, neither of which, I am safe in saying, existed in the above mentioned *garden*, though I am inclined to think that the latter would have been very useful.

In fact, I might go on for some time showing the points of contrast, which by the way, are much more numerous than those of resemblance.

I daresay it would be interesting to many to know something of the people, their occupations, customs, &c. This pleasant task I must postpone. I may state these things are best found out from personal observation, and if any one has a *bump* for enjoying delightful scenery, he cannot do better than gather up his fishing tackle some fine morning in June and make a tour up the Stewiacke River.

REMEMBRANCE.

(From the Irish of Oulfadh.)

Behind the blue mountains the sun is declining;
The sweet winds of evening are whisp'ring to me;
And the music of birds, as I sit here reclining,
Is quietly bearing my thoughts o'er the sea.

But though the clouds seem to obscure the sun's motion,
And the footsteps of night steal all noiselessly on,
As I seek the bright sundown beyond the far ocean,
The mountains familiar appear one by one!

I view the dear shores of my own native Erin!
I see my old cot from the others apart!
And memories of youth to my eye bring a tear in,—
But no voice breathes response to the voice of my heart.

J. A. L.

Dallusiensia.

THE Medical Faculty, and the people of Halifax as well, have again been disappointed. Many of the Haligonians were looking forward with a great degree of pleasure to the time when E. Jenkins, Esq., the type of the true gentleman, should return to our city, and give us another first-class intellectual banquet. But all these hopes have been "nipped in the bud," by the election of Mr. Jenkins to represent Dundee, Scotland, in the British Parliament, which necessitates his immediate departure from our shores. Though Mr. Jenkins cannot return to lecture to us again, we feel that we are expressing the sentiments of the people of Halifax, when we say that he will be long remembered by them as a real gentleman, a fair thinker, a clear, beautiful writer, and a first-class lecturer. We hope that at some future day Mr. J. may again visit our city.

As the work of our Financial Committee has been considerably increased this year, they requested the Students to add two more to their number. This wish being considered, at a meeting of Students, in compliance with it, James W. Smith, '76, and R. Chambers, '77, were appointed.

The only change noticed in the costume of the Medicals this session is, that on wet days they carry an umbrella in one hand, and *the cane* in the other.

One of our sophs. was lately heard complaining that he had lost his "Intellect, Emotions, and Moral Nature." Poor Soph!

ONE of our Professors has a new pair of boots.

Clippings.

PROF. BROWN of Syracuse University has been appointed assistant Astronomer for the U. S. expedition to observe the approaching transit of Venus.—*Iowa Classic.*

"A PERFECTLY sound physical condition, though apt to be despised by Students, is absolutely indispensable to good work. Take two men exactly alike in bodily and mental aptitudes, and let the one go on carelessly and idly, indulging appetites, and generally leading a life of what is called pleasure; and let the other train himself by early hours, by temperate habits, and by giving to muscle and brain each their fair share of employment, and at the end of two or three years they will be as wide apart in their capacity for exertion as if they had been born with totally different constitutions."—*Lord Derby to the students of Liverpool College.*

THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER'S LATIN.—"Oxonienensis" writes to the London papers:—"Is it not rather remarkable that in writing an inscription for the bust of the Queen's sister, at Windsor, the Dean of Westminster, late a tutor at Oxford, and Ireland scholar, should in the few words of which it is composed be guilty of a glaring solecism? He writes, 'coram sepulchro' instead of 'ante sepulchrum.' Surely he ought to have known that 'coram' is used only in reference to persons, not to things or places."

A RECENT report of the Cornell University states that the number of students is 461, divided according to the studies pursued, as follows: Science, 119; literature, 20; arts, 35; agriculture, 7; architecture, 21; Chemistry, 7; engineering, 84; mechanic arts, 32; natural history, 6; optional studies, 120.—*ib.*

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY has in the aggregate 177 students, distributed as follows: In the College of Liberal Arts, Classical, 55; Latin-Scientific, 20; Scientific, 34; and Select, 26. The College of Fine Arts has 15 students, and the Medical College 26. Attendance upon chapel exercises is no longer required.—*ib.*

A POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL has been opened in Japan with 3,000 students.—*Tripod.*

RECEIPTS will be acknowledged in next issue of the GAZETTE.

WE have received from the Publisher, Prof. Schem's "Statistics of the World," one of the most valuable compilations we have ever seen. The Tables are issued in oblong Atlas form, and are at once compendious, comprehensive, minute, and reliable. The information consists, for the most part, of the very latest news—though we notice that Sir Chas. H. Doyle is set down on the first page as Governor of Nova Scotia. As these Statistics are published semi-annually, the next issue will probably see the error rectified. All may obtain this valuable work of reference by sending to G. J. Moulton, 103 Fulton Street, New York.

Ten numbers of the GAZETTE are issued every Winter Session by the STUDENTS of Dalhousie College and University.

TERMS:

| | |
|--|--------|
| One Collegiate year (in advance)..... | \$0.50 |
| Single copies (each)..... | 05 |
| Gazette and Reading Room, to Students..... | 1.00 |
| To Graduates..... | 1.00 |

To be had at the Bookstores of Messrs. Morton, Connolly & Kelly, S. T. Hall, Wm. Gossip and Miss Katzmann.

The GAZETTE is forwarded to all Subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, and until all arrears are paid.

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.

Printed by the NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY, corner Sackville and Granville Streets, Halifax, N. S.

BRITISH WOOLLEN HALL,

152 and 154 Granville Street.

Our New Autumn & Fall Stock of
BRITISH AND FOREIGN

DRY GOODS!

will now be found complete in every department, and embraces all the latest Novelties and Styles in the trade, which have been personally selected by one of our firm in the best markets of the United Kingdom.

We have on hand a splendid Stock of GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS, and Men's, Youths' and Boys'

READY MADE CLOTHING,

warranted of good sound material and workmanship of the best London styles.

Our country customers will please send us their orders early; and buyers generally will find it to their advantage to give us a call.

Both Wholesale and Retail at the lowest prices.

JENNINGS & CLAY.

CONNOLLY & KELLY, Booksellers and Stationers, HALIFAX.

College, Academy, and Common SCHOOL BOOKS always on hand, and imported to order.

BLANK NOTE BOOKS, all Sizes and Bindings.

We make a speciality of the MEDICAL BOOKS now in use at Dalhousie; a stock of the different authors always on hand.

Note, Letter, and Foolscap Papers, Envelopes, Pens, Ink, Pencils, &c., &c., together with all SMALL WARES usually found in the Trade.

Connolly & Kelly, 35 & 37 George St.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, United Service Book & Stationery Warehouse, No. 87 GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX.

Imports and deals in all kinds of

COLLEGE & SCHOOL BOOKS.

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Books and Stationery, Paper Hangings' Bordersings, Plain and Figured Paper Window Blinds.

Mathematical Instruments, Surveyors' Chains and Tapes always on hand.

Special attention given to the Importation and sale of Artists' Materials, from the Best houses in the world.

Printing and Bookbinding done to order and with despatch.

Books, &c., imported to order, from Great Britain and the United States with the greatest punctuality.

Enquire particularly for

WILLIAM GOSSIP,
87 Granville Street.

STATIONERS HALL, GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS, SEASON OF 1873-74.

New Gift Books in every Department of LITERATURE,
FAMILY BIBLES in superb Binding, all prices,

Large Massive Photo and Cabinet Albums,

French Gift Goods, Perfume Cases, Ladies Companions of the most excellent makes.

Stationery of every description stamped with Crest, Die or Monogram, in color or plain.

STEPHEN T. HALL,
121 HOLLIS ST. - - HALIFAX.

PROVINCIAL BOOKSTORE, GRANVILLE ST.

Fowne's, Bowman's and Wilson's Chemistry.

Brewster's & Parkinson's Opticals.

Ganot's Physics.

Macadam's Practical Chemistry.

Drew's Conic Sections.

Galbraith & Haughton's Optics, Mechanics, Hydrostatics and Astronomy.

Todhunter's Equations, Plane Trigonometry, Differential Calculus, Algebra, Conic Sections and Spherical Trigonometry; Pujol's French Grammar; Otto's French & German Grammar; Spier's and Sunenne's French Dictionary; Marsh's Students' English Language; Marsh's Anglo Saxon Reader; Lewis' History of Philosophy; Greek and Latin Classics in Oxford and Weale's Series.

BOOKS OF ALL KINDS IMPORTED TO ORDER.

Subscriptions received for all English and American Magazines and Newspapers.

A. P. KATZMANN.



FRESH ARRIVALS AT THE "BEE HIVE."

My Fall Stock of Tweeds, Cloths, Coatings, Beavers, Pilots and Doeskins' all of which will be made up to order in the most fashionable styles and best workmanship. All who require good fits and reasonable prices will please call.

JAMES K. MUNNIS, Upper Water St., cor. Jacob.

JUST RECEIVED AT THE "BEE HIVE,"

The largest Stock of Ready-Made Clothing, Gents' Furnishing Goods, &c All in want of Fashionable and Cheap Goods will please call and examine

JAMES K. MUNNIS,

114 Upper Water St., Corner Jacob.

M. A. BUCKLEY'S Book and Stationery Store, 101 GRANVILLE STREET,

Is replete with

Standard and Popular Literature,

including the best and latest Novels, Poetical, Theological and Religious Works, Books of History, Philosophy, Essays, Biblical Commentaries, Bibles, Prayer Books, Church Services, Denominational Hymn Books, School Books, Students' Class Books, Classical Translations, and Greek and Latin Texts, which, together with the best Stationery, Blank Books, Artists' Materials, Art Products and Fancy Goods, are offered

WHOLESALE and RETAIL, at Lowest Prices.

Special attention given to the Importation of Books to order, from Great Britain and the United States.

PIANOS AND ORGANS, The Best Stock in the Province!

CONSISTING OF

Upright Pianos, of English and German Manufacture, Square Pianos by the celebrated manufacturers,

Chickering & Sons,

Steinway & Sons, and

Haine & Brothers, New York.

Also, a few superior

Chromos and Paintings,

specially selected in Europe, at

S. SICHEL & CO., 141 Granville St.