

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

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

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 9, 1876.

NEW No. 14
WHOLE No. 84.

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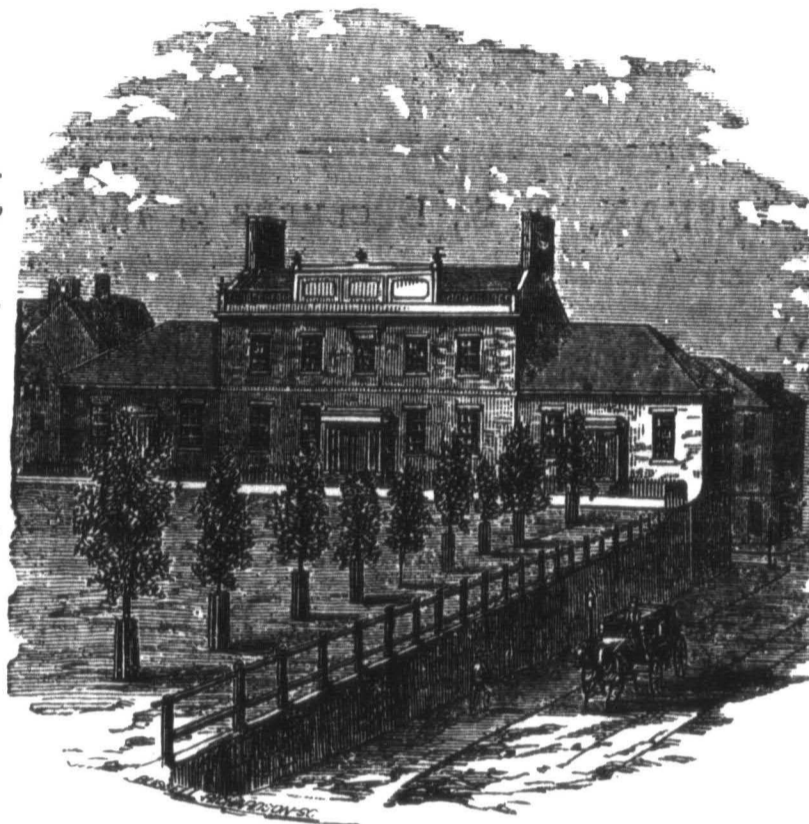
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DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

NEW SERIES—VOL. II.
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HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 9, 1876.

NEW No. 2
WHOLE No. 84.

YE WHITE-CRESTED WAVES.

Ye white-crested waves dancing merrily on,
Why sing ye the song of the days that are gone?
Let the music be hushed on your desolate shore,
For ye tell of a time I shall welcome no more.

My love comes not now by the shore where I sought her,
Her laugh mingles not with the voice of the water,
That voice bringeth sorrow and sadness to me,
When the night winds blow gently far over the sea.

Now I wander alone by your pebbly strand,
And I watch the wild billows come rolling to land,
And I know that the past will return to me never,
Though ye travel the same weary pathway for ever.

N. T.

NEWSPAPERS.

CARLYLE in "Sartor Resartus" says,—“A preaching Friar settles himself in every village, and builds a pulpit which he calls a newspaper. Therefrom he preaches what momentous doctrine is in him for man's salvation, and dost not thou listen and observe?” Much, however, depends on the text from which he preaches, and the manner in which he does it. He must tell the truth if he expects honest men to listen to him. Besides, if he would have an attentive audience, he must show the people to whom he speaks that his ideas are somewhat similar to their own. If he would be a popular preacher, he must, to some extent, at least, be all things to all men; and to adopt such a course, and to carry it out successfully, requires a Friar of no mean ability.

We hear much these times about the marvelous power of the press. We are told that it is the great agency which is to educate the masses, purify or pollute society, chain evil or unbind it, and do a great many other wonderful things. It is the mustard seed which has shot its roots downward, and spread its branches abroad and become the greatest among herbs. A large part

of this praise is no doubt deserved, yet we should remember, ere we chime in, how natural it is for men to flatter, and take care lest we too, be influenced by this tendency. Men are always ready to fall down and worship the image which they themselves have set up. No usurper ever yet climbed to a throne who did not find himself surrounded by a crowd ready to shout, “God save the King!” It is true that in countries which are governed by public opinion the power of the press is very great. For example, in England the “Thunderer” can raise a storm at any time with a few hours notice, but after it blows over and calm returns, we are often unable to detect any plain marks of its ravages. The thunder that frights is heard repeatedly, but it is only occasionally that the lightning which smites accompanies it.

We think, after all, that men's opinions are seldom changed by anything that they read in newspapers. In selecting their paper, men, for the most part, look for one which is likely to uphold them in the opinions which they have already formed. So much is this the case that you can generally tell to what side of politics a man belongs by the paper which he takes. There is, perhaps, no sort of conflict in which so much effort is put forth with so little result, as in the political strife which is constantly carried on in our newspapers. Each party has its own demigods to worship, and its enemies to slander.

“All piety consists therein in them,
In other men all sin.”

This tendency to lavish praise on one party, and blame on the other, has become so common that impartial men are unwilling to trust either side, and feel inclined to regard both as gnat-strainers and camel-swallowers.

The power of the press to enlighten and instruct cannot well be over estimated. It is the great schoolmaster of the age. The wisest of us, if we would keep up our reputation for wisdom, must take lessons from it. As a preacher, however, the newspaper does not appear to meet

The current Winter Session commenced on October 27th, 1876, and will end on April 26th, 1877.
The Summer Session will begin on the 1st of May, and close at the end of June.
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with the same success. Most men are willing to be taught, but few care to be reformed. We need not seek far for topics about which the press is unanimous and apparently to no purpose. For instance, every newspaper in Nova Scotia, of any importance, speaks out plainly against the present system of squandering our educational funds on sectarian colleges, and advocates the establishment of one Provincial University. Our people read all this and admit its truth; and presently each begins to shout for his own pet institution; each goes on making shrines for his own Diana. This is only one instance among many, which might be cited, in which the press is almost unanimous and the people still divided.

The province of the press, therefore, seems to be, not so much to govern public opinion, as to body it forth, and give it voice; not so much to lead, as keep pace in the march of progress. It is a sort of looking-glass, in which men see the reflection of their own ideas, and the truer the picture, the better they like it. When Junius says that "the liberty of the press is the *palladium* of all our rights," he just means that it is our mouth-piece, and, when it is fettered, we are no longer free.

The moralist of the present day often cries out against the impurity of the press, but the press is seldom any more impure than the people. The literature which any generation leaves behind it is generally a pretty fair index of its character. The vilest wielder of the editorial quill is after all, but the skilful cook who first finds out what suits men's palates and then places it before them in the most attractive form. His mess, be it ever so vile, is seldom allowed to remain uneaten. At the same time, it is true, that the writer who cares to "touch higher strings" and "win a loftier strain" will be listened to with attention, for the basest of men have a certain regard for what they know to be right. The great mission of the press, then, should be to stamp the truth and scatter it abroad among men. In this depraved age, when slander has become so fashionable, we can scarcely expect the press to be free from it; and we fear there is little prospect, at present, of a return of that golden age of which Tacitus speaks, when men spoke and wrote, not to varnish evil deeds, but to praise the virtuous, and celebrate the friends of human kind.

RUSTICUS.

JEAN-BAPTISTE COLBERT.

"An honest man's the noblest work of God."

THE famous Colbert was a descendant of an ancient family of the French Nobility. The wheel of fortune had reduced the Baron's wealth so much that it was necessary for Jean-Baptiste to look forward to a mercantile life. He was, accordingly, apprenticed to a Woollen-draper of Rheims. Sometime near the end of his first year of service, an event occurred, that turned the course of his life into the stream that carries on its bosom the fortunes of the great.

M. Cenani, a wealthy Parisian, was, at this time, fitting up his chateau at Rheims, with all the elegancies which the wealth of a leading banker could procure.

Colbert's master was fortunate enough to receive an order for some drapery. The articles were to be sent for the examination of the banker, and the heart of Baptiste throbbed with a feeling of importance, as he left the shop on this, his first important trust. In company with the porter who carried the pieces of cloth, he entered the chateau and exhibited the goods. Thirty yards at fifteen crowns each, of a particular piece, were sold and measured, and the clerk started for the shop, well satisfied, with the four hundred and fifty crowns in his pocket.

On his arrival, the fussy old shopkeeper anxiously asked if they had disposed of their goods without mistake.

"I think so," said Baptiste, rather grandly, well satisfied with his first commission. "M. Cenani has purchased one of the best pieces and here is the money."

"I am not quite so sure of that," said the porter.

"Not so sure, eh!" What blunder has the thoughtless boy made?" I have been dreading it. You shall go back immediately, and if M. Cenani refuses to make it good, you shall pay for it out of your own wages. No. 3, I see is missing. It was worth six crowns,—no, eight."

"Eight crowns, Sir, are you sure of that, cried the boy in astonishment. I am ashamed to say I sold it for fifteen I must go, and—"

"Fifteen! fifteen," interrupted the draper. "Well done, Baptiste! You will be an honor to your family some day. Seven crowns profit on each yard. Well done! Well done! And he shook his hand.

"You'd not keep it, would you?" cried Baptiste, stepping back.

"Eh! Hem! You want your share too, do you?"

"I will return and ask pardon immediately," said the indignant boy, and seizing his hat, he passed the astonished draper and hurried back to the chateau.

M. Cenani was dressing and Baptiste was told he could not see him. But he insisted, and followed the valet to the bedroom door.

Having heard the gentleman say that he would not see him, Baptiste implored time for an explanation.

"Did you not get all the pay you wanted? Have you impudence enough to come for more?" cried the disturbed banker. "Go, I'm engaged."

"Sir," said he, boldly stepping into the room, "I have unintentionally imposed upon you, and beg of you to return me the receipt and take back the balance. The piece you selected was only worth eight crowns."

"Are you quite sure? Are you not mistaken?"

"No, the piece is marked No. 3. There is no mistake. I beg pardon. I would never have forgiven myself had you discovered the mistake first." And he turned to go.

"Stay, take the balance for your honesty." But his mind was too high to accept a present under such circumstances, and he started for the shop.

He had scarcely left the door, when the miserly old draper, who had followed, seized him by the collar and abused him in violent terms. "You stupid fool! You mean rascal! You pious hypocrite! Never set your foot inside my shop again. Away with you!"

Baptiste had, indeed, expected unpleasantness, but was not prepared for so harsh treatment. It was, therefore, with a heavy heart, but an applauding conscience, that he reported his misfortune at home.

Meanwhile, as M. Cenani drove through the streets, he was musing on the events of the morning. He had learned the clerk's name and happened to know the misfortunes of the Colbert family. He stopped his carriage at the "Golden Fleece," and there learned of Baptiste's misfortune. His mind was now fully made up, and he offered the fortunate boy a responsible position in the banking house of "Cenani and Mazerani" at Paris.

Baptiste immediately entered upon his new

duties. By industry he acquired a thorough knowledge of banking while still young; and by continued fidelity and close attention to business, he rose in the estimation of his masters so high that the large Provincial business of the bank was entrusted to him.

This situation required him to travel a great deal, and mix among a multitude of business men of various opinions, which afforded him a splendid opportunity to require a knowledge of the resources of the country, and to collect those principles of trade and commerce which were destined to do so much good for his country.

His advanced position brought him under the notice of influential relatives, who had lost sight of his branch of the family. St. Pouage procured for him a situation under his brother-in-law—the Secretary of State. The Secretary introduced him to Cardinal Mazarin. By the Cardinal he was employed in important confidential State affairs. He thus became Steward of Mazarin's immense property; next Privy Councillor, then Associate of the Prime Minister.

In 1661, Louis XIV. created him Comptroller General of Finance—an office for which his natural abilities and previous training admirably qualified him.

"This great Minister, by dint of extraordinary genius and untiring labor, succeeded in effecting a radical reform of the finances. Things had lapsed into the same state of confusion as before the Ministry of Sully. The revenue was exhausted by anticipation; the national debt amounted to four hundred and fifty millions of livres; out of eighty-four millions paid in taxes, only thirty-two millions were received by the treasury, while the yearly expenditure reached fifty-two millions. In the course of a few years Colbert raised the gross income of the treasury to upward of one hundred millions, of which ninety millions were paid net into the public coffers." The total annual "expenditure never exceeded fifty millions."

Until his time there had been no regular foreign trade except with the Provinces. He stimulated national enterprise; developed the resources of France; built the Languedoc canal; established a general insurance office for maritime towns; and founded the Chamber of Commerce.

He caused the first statistical tables of the population to be compiled; collected a large

number of historical papers interesting and useful to the nation; patronised learning; and left a library of over 14,000 valuable manuscripts.

His death-bed furnishes a lesson to those who, although virtuous and noble-minded in their moral life, lack "the one thing needful." The King sent a letter to the dying Marquis, but he refused to open it. "I will hear no more of him," he exclaimed. "He must leave me in peace now. Had I done for my God what I have done for that man, I could die content."

DAVIE DODD, Jr.

FAILURES.

THE world is full of them. Not in the great financial undertakings which are yet renowned for their crash, the colonizing schemes frustrated by ignorance, and the attempts at opening up new thoroughfares of commerce, which have been so many and fruitless, not in these and such as these are to be found the most common and noteworthy indications of failure. And by noteworthy indications we mean just those features of the subject from which we may take practical lessons. As perseverance is the true secret of success, and as perseverance is of necessity an individual quality, so in the study of human nature in individuals, there is that which will enable us most comprehensively to grasp the subject and to apply its teachings to our own actions. We will not run our ship too close where we see the stranded wreck, but will save ourselves from stranding by keeping at a distance. That boy was a philosopher who accounted for his falling out of bed by saying he slept too near where he fell out. Others have had similar reflections. The sober moments of a confirmed drunkard must be indeed sad by the remembrance of his folly, the bankrupt speculator calculates again and again the good prospect which he had of the venture which has already ruined him, and the politician carries an unavailing regret for some indiscreet words or actions which have been the means of his losing office.

But it is not such cases that we are to consider; they are but the offspring of the failure that has a closer connection with the formation of character and business habits in the young men of our time. Now, who are the failures? Far be it from us to say that all who have the reputation of being unsuccessful are of this class.

We know many men, without money or political influence, it is true, yet, who lead lives of rare happiness, and what is more, of great usefulness. Rather would we assert that the failures are those who, ignoring the claims of society, consider self-gratification the *summum bonum* of their existence, and sacrifice to this, by habitual waste of time, opportunities which might have been turned to great advantage both for themselves and others. It may be urged that this extreme is not often reached, but we will try to show that modifications of it are common, and that the very elements of failure are often found where least expected.

Metaphysicians tell us that eternity is made up of completed periods of time; and though it seems paradoxical, a parallel will be found by investigating the results of the actions of some of the few men who have made each moment an occasion of effecting something. Though it may be that the good that men do is often interred with their bones, yet what word but infinite can express the effects of such a life as Luther's. While there may not always have been the way open in which efforts could be put forth for the public good, the really successful man never found that time in which there might not be self-improvement. This brings us to the matter which most affects us as Students. Brought together for the purpose of study and mental training, it is evident that, when we consider the cost, we should make the most of the helps which we find about us. Without doubt there are some whose attention to their text-books ought to be encouraged by every possible means, but we do not think that we are wrong in saying that many might with advantage give more time to general reading and debate. There is such a thing as failure through excessive preparation, like running a mile to jump over a wall. Increased usefulness is the prime object of our training, and he who, in his avidity for prizes, neglects the more important matter, that of making his study but a means to an end, fails most decidedly. The privileges which the students at our University enjoy, and from which so many are debarred in the vacations, should not be underestimated. Reading rooms and libraries are open to every one who will use them, and the various styles of the city preachers and lecturers afford a fair field for criticism to every one who intends to follow a profession which shall require public speaking. While we imagine that there are some who would not care

to have their sermons analysed systematically, yet, we know, that in some Colleges, it is a part of the regular work to take every opportunity of doing this, and the exercise is one which cannot fail to be attended with good results. It is not to be understood that preparation for class work is regarded as an unimportant affair, but there is a tendency to go over much ground at the expense of thoroughness, and such a course tends very much to counteract the mental discipline sought. Again the art of conversation is one that is very much slighted, and he who is deficient in it, whatever else may be his attainments, must find his influence extremely limited.

For that gift of gab, uncontrolled by judgment, which obtrudes itself at every opportunity, we have the utmost contempt; but apparently there are students shirking every opportunity of improving their conversational powers, who might develop this faculty very much by an independent and manly maintenance of their opinions among their fellows and elsewhere. The opinions of an opponent will frequently lead to the investigation of the truth of one's own position, and thus a double end will be gained, increased knowledge and faculty of expression. Besides, this power is one that admits of great culture, and no one can choose a better time for his training, than when engaged in the study of the classics. E. C.

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

WE have the following from a graduate:—

There are, this Session, 16 students in attendance at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in this city. In the Junior class there are 7: James A. McLean, B. A.; Charles W. Bryden, B. A., both graduates of Dalhousie: T. Chalmers Jack, B. A., of the University of N. B.; Andrew Grey; Duncan McKenzie; A. McDougall, and George L. Gordon. In the Middle class there are 4: James A. McKeen, B. A.; Archibald Gunn; James A. Carruthers, and James Stewart. In the Senior class there are 4: Donald McLeod, B. A.; John A. Logan; B. K. McElmon; D. McGregor, B. A., and D. S. Fraser, B. A.

The students of that Institution have lately organized a Reading Club, to meet every Saturday evening for "mutual improvement in reading."

The Senate of the Seminary have decided to have monthly written examinations on all subjects of the curriculum. The standing of each student for the term is to depend on the aggregate of scores made at these examinations.

The Institution was never in a more vigorous and prosperous condition than it is at present.

The annual competition for the "Hunter Prizes" took place on the 9th and 10th of November. The subjects of examination were: Butler's "Analogy," Paley's "Horae Paulinae," and the *Second Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*, in Greek. There were only two competitors, James A. McKeen, B. A., and D. Stiles Fraser, B. A. These gentlemen came out *equal*, and, consequently, they each received an equal share of the above Prizes.

SOME BACON FOR CHEWING.

A MAN that is of judgment and understanding shall sometimes hear ignorant men differ, and know well within himself that those who so differ mean one thing, and yet they themselves would never agree: and if it so cometh to pass in that distance of judgment which is between man and man, shall we not think that God above, that knows the heart, doth not discern that frail men, in some of their contradictions, intend the same thing, and accepteth both.

There is in human nature generally more of the fool than of the wise; and therefore those facilities by which the foolish parts of men's minds is taken are most potent.

There is no secrecy comparable to celerity—like the motion of a bullet in the air, which flieth so swift it outruns the eye.

Suspicious amongst thoughts are like bats among birds—they ever fly by twilight.

He that hath a satirical vein, as he maketh others afraid of his wit, so he had need to be afraid of others memory.

In studies, whatsoever a man commandeth upon himself, let him set hours for it; but whatsoever is agreeable to his nature let him take no care for any set times; for his thoughts will fly to it of themselves, so that the spaces of other business or studies will suffice.

Vain-glorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, and the slaves of their own vaunts.

DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 9, 1876.

EDITORS.

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

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NOTICE.

Several "Gazettes" have been returned without the names of the returners. When a person receives a second number after refusing the first, he will oblige by notifying the Financial Secretary.

WE notice with pleasure that Col. Laurie has given the students of Dalhousie another opportunity of expressing their views on the Road System of Nova Scotia. It was too bad that last Session no one was found to take advantage of that gentleman's liberality. Surely, it could not have been that they had no fault to find with the present system, and were not able to propound an honester policy, or even suggest any improvements. The majority of our undergraduates would regard such a supposition as a slander on their judgement, nor will we for a moment harbour the opinion; at the same time we would like to bring the matter to their notice, at this early period, and ask them not to allow a repetition of the neglect.

The subject is an important one, of great prac-

tical utility, and withal much in need of ventilation.

How is it that the press has never brought the matter before the public, and given it a fair and honest discussion? Nova Scotian journals have fought with commendable bravery for the integrity of the principles embodied in the Education Act of 1864, they have asked for, and secured, reform in the matter of the Public Printing, they have freely discussed Railway Extension, and the claims of higher education, but have given little, or no attention to our Public Roads, or the way in which they are built and maintained.

Dissatisfaction with the existing system is becoming very general among the people. It is the conviction of every right-thinking citizen, whose opinion we have had on the subject, that it must be abolished. One great cause of this discontent is, the utter incompetency of many of those, who take upon themselves to fill the office of commissioners. Now-a-days, almost every blunderhead thinks he is born into the world a civil engineer, and hence we find throughout the Province hundreds of men undertaking to lay out new lines of roads, and construct and repair bridges and highways, who are scarcely more capable of performing those duties, than Pat or Mike who plies the shovel on the railway, is of filling the office of Attorney General. These very often, at the end of the year, let their mantles fall on a new batch of men as inexperienced as their predecessors, so that in this way much of the public cash is spent annually to smallest public advantage.

But the evil most complained of is, that the disbursement of moneys, allotted for expenditure on roads and bridges, being entrusted to members of the Local Assembly, some of these gentlemen take advantage of that circumstance to secure for themselves votes against election day. This charge, though not universally true, can, we fear, in many instances, be substantiated. Mr. Campbell, in his History of Nova Scotia (pages

244-45) gives the following account of the way in which no small share of the public money is squandered. We have space only for part of his words:—

"In perusing the records of the Province, one is struck with the liberal road grants made from year to year, and nothing is more certain than that if the money had been honestly applied to the purpose for which it had been voted, Nova Scotia would at this day, be in possession of as fine roads as any country either in Europe or on this continent. About one hundred and seventy thousand dollars of the public funds are voted annually for roads, and entrusted to members of the Assembly. These gentlemen are immediately beset by patriots who have made themselves useful at election time, and the money is distributed among them, on a sworn declaration that a certain amount of work has been done. The Assembly might devote the whole revenue of the Province to roads and bridges, making, in this way, the performance of the work dependent on the oath of the contractors, and the people would find no improvement in the service. The most sacred obligations in connection with the service have come to be regarded as a demoralizing sham."

We need not add any annotations to this passage. We think it is a very expressive piece of commentary in itself.

It is evident then, that the worst abuses of the road management arise from its connection with politics, and that what we want is a system on such a basis, that the distribution of money, set aside for the construction and maintenance of highways, can not be affected by political influences. It is not our present object, however, to propound an improved system, though it might be difficult, nay almost impossible, for us to propose a more defective one than that now existing. We merely wish to call the attention of the public generally, but especially of students, to the subject. That reform is necessary, must be potent to all, except those who are of that class, who, having eyes see not, and ears hear not. The country is anxious for it. Is there not some aspiring young man amongst us, who wishes to become known in the political arena? Here is an opportunity for him. Let him devise a wise and workable system, and he may some day have the satisfaction of seeing it adopted by our Legislature as the future Road policy of Nova Scotia.

THE boy that tries to lug at one load what he can barely lift at three, will raise nothing but his own temperature. The man who attempts to shoulder a ton, may strain his muscles and burst a blood vessel, but he cannot be said to perform work. The supposed genius often toils under a similar error. Trusting to superior parts to make good the shirking of hard, dogged effort, shows a trace of that "vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself." A truthful picture of the parents of Failure, would represent Confidence hand in hand with Carelessness. Notice how the fluent and undoubting youth almost invariably ripens into the bore. He takes for granted that an array of "words of learned length and thundering sound" cannot fail to be freighted with thoughts of corresponding magnitude. The casket is silver, and he never suspects its being empty. Such a speaker will, with the fortitude of a Stoic, keep up what Moore calls a "weak, washy, everlasting flow," and betray no concern, though suffering the double disease of a "diarrhoea of words" with a "costiveness of ideas."

So with ready debaters. Many who have in them energy and keenness which, properly trained, would mark them as disputants of a high order, are held in check by inferior power; simply because, despising discipline, they pour their forces to an attack in the wildest disorder.

So sure as there is "a time for everything," there is a thing for every time; and no one can afford the mental dissipation consequent upon the want of system and application.

Reader, think not meanly of your ability. What you shall become, depends largely on the powers you possess. But, continually bear in mind that very much also depends on what you resolve to become, and what you persistently endeavor to accomplish. Be not disheartened if another appear to start from higher ground. Earnestly trudge on and you can scarcely fail to reach an honourable level; and still climbing warily step by step, securing each advance, you may succeed in topping ledge after ledge, until you attain the breezy height of eminence.

WE are glad to learn that some of our Professors are disposed for the future to allow Class Essays to have some influence in determining the standing of students. This will be a move in the direction of evenhanded justice. To expect any one to put on an article of thirty or forty pages, treating of some abstruse or critical subject, the amount of work that would be necessary to make the exercise either creditable or profitable, is to judge such a one to have very little regard for Certificates of Merit, and to be proof against the temptation for prizes. Formerly tickets were filled at the close of the Session, showing an estimate of Class work performed, and though this did not count in any competition, it was some slight inducement to attend to Essays. Even this has been done away with. The cry for change will never be loud so long as those eager for class honors are shrewd enough to gain by the present adjustment, the start of their less scheming rivals by many a valuable hour. No doubt great caution must be taken before giving value for work done out of class. To allow distinction to be won by means of a clever friend would be far worse than to let things remain as they are. But it is surely possible to make some improvement on the arrangement now followed, and at the same time guard against dishonesty. Elsewhere competitions in this species of writing are frequent and satisfactory. If no plan of reform can be hit upon, let it be plainly understood that all essay writing is an entirely optional affair.

Is Halifax to have any Lectures this winter? With a few worthy exceptions our City is not conspicuous for its persuasive speakers. Has not St. John, over the Bay, a much larger number of merchants and other unprofessional men well known throughout their city for fluency of address? Withdraw a very few and what is there in the arguing of causes in our Supreme Court to distinguish the scene as the arena of the successors of Plunket?

The influence of good lectures is sadly needed. Many remember the series under the auspices of the Medical College, and half regret that more money is not wanted by that institution. Probably after Music Hall is completed, the lecture-going public will be treated to something worthy of the new edifice. Then let real talent be engaged, if the undertaking would be a success. The average platform effort suffers little from being boiled down by a reporter and served up cold at the breakfast table. Most who value time and health, prefer this to spending several hours in a public hall. But this does not apply to the highest style of oratory. Much of its electrifying power can only be felt by those who come face to face with the living speaker.

Besides, as an evening is worth much more than the ordinary admission fee, the real difference of cost to any business man or student between a twenty-five cent and a one dollar lecture is only a part of the full expense. People understand this, and hence the failure of attempts to draw them out to cheap lectures.

Give a name that will put expectation on tip-toe, and there are plenty of people in Halifax to appreciate the act, pay well for the enjoyment, and be thankful for the chance.

WE are happy to learn that J. J. Mackenzie, one of our Masters of Arts (of 1872) has graduated as Ph. D., (Doctor of Philosophy) at the University of Leipzig. During the last three years Dr. Mackenzie has been devoting his attention to Mathematics and Physics; and the latter subject, being that which he had chosen as the chief subject of his Doctor's examination, he has studied not only theoretically, but practically. For two years he has been engaged in making an original investigation of the absorptive powers of liquids for gases. Many of our readers will remember the method of measuring absorptive powers which was originated by Bunsen, (the great Heidelberg Chemist.) His method, though more excellent than any that had previously been devised, has several unavoid-

able defects, which are, of course, sources of error, and therefore the results which it has given are to a certain extent questionable. In Dr. Mackenzie's investigations he has used a new method, which eliminates these sources of error, and therefore gives results which are more trustworthy. He has already applied it to various liquids and gases, at constant temperatures, and having published the results and passed the examinational test, he has been declared Ph. D. by the Philosophical Faculty. Dr. Mackenzie is prosecuting his studies this winter in Berlin, under Kirchhoff and Helmholtz. He intends to carry his researches in absorption still farther by investigating the relation of temperature to absorptive power. This research will involve an immense amount of labour, but once the work is done, the knowledge thus gained will be of proportionate value, both from a theoretical and a practical point of view. We beg to tender our heartiest congratulations to Dr. McKenzie, who is so admirably sustaining the honour of his *Alma Mater*.

FOOTBALL.—A College fifteen, being called upon to play a match against a City team, last Friday afternoon, it became necessary to ask for some minutes off the Ethics hour. The request was unprecedented, but our venerable Principal takes a lively interest in everything connected with the Students, so he granted the favour, remarking that if the City chaps were defeated a precedent would be established; if the College should be worsted no similar application need be made in future. In another quarter a little cloud of opposition arose like a man's two hands, but before dark our boys had *established the precedent*.

MEASLES.

ONE day a student went into a grocery store to make a small purchase. But merchants don't like transactions of that kind. Seeing that there was no chance of forcing a trade, the grocer had recourse to stratagem; and as a gift gave the unsuspecting youth the measles.

Now of all mean gifts this is the meanest. Had it been bad herring, or musty oatmeal, there would have been an opportunity of rectifying the mistake; but who can take measles back to a shop, and throwing them on the counter, declare that he never asked for that article. If a shopkeeper keeps measles as a commodity, let him hang out a shingle to that effect; and intending customers can govern themselves accordingly. The dose in this case—like many other gifts—was too powerful; and the victim has regretted it ever since.

Wherever else it may be sport to have the measles feed upon you, there is little enjoyment in them when at College. Horace is downstairs accumulating dust. Greek tragedy lies untranslated. But satire has no effect upon you now. Alcestis offering herself to save her husband from death, comes up before the mind, and somehow or other you in turn have taken her place.

Meanwhile your feet grow cold, and the Doctor orders bottles of hot water. A wandering imagination connects the bottles with Experimental Physics, and forthwith you begin to illustrate "parallel forces." Sleep at last settles upon the sunken eye. Just then bang bang goes the door knocker. It is the baker, and his two raps mean, "Here are your two loaves, hurry up, for bread is spoiling at the bakery." That old rapper once started will not be easily stopped. Of all tormenting things to a wretch possessed of measles, it is the worst. Now it is gently raised. The faint tip tap scarcely has an echo. The agitated mind quite easily sees the tattered garments, and the empty basket. The timid knock means, "Please give a crust." Again the knocker is heard, but this time a happy hearted girl must be at the door, for the sound has gone ringing through every corner of the house. Then the letter carrier pelts boisterously as if to say, "I'm one of Her Majesty's officials, red tape can't suffer to be delayed." Finally the rapping ceases. The last cab has passed with the midnight hour. There is no sound of falling footsteps. Nothing is left to indicate life, but deep snoring from the next room; and you earnestly pray for the time when creatures of a kind will be compelled to sleep together. Still the grand prevailing idea is measles: the one desire, cold water. But this is prohibited; and what can be done? There is one resource. Fill your mouth with the coveted liquid and in that receptacle keep it until warmed. But to your amazement

the water is gone instantly, and there is no remedy but to take another mouthful. Sleep once more comes, but in an instant college walls loom up, and a dreaded voice calls, "Next, next," and in muttered undertone, "apocalypse of ignorance!" Who could sleep with that sounding in his ears? You long for morning, and by and by it comes, bringing with it a repetition of the previous day, only that the hated knocker is tugged at oftener than before.

At last the measles are apparently satisfied and depart one by one. With them goes all your energy; and the thought of being an undergraduate is bitter. In the midst of despondency, kindnesses come crowding in from all sides; there can be no other result than immediate recovery. We forbear enumerating the favours, lest some other mortal might in the desire of obtaining like blessings insanely covet the measles.

A. R.

[Several of the students have been laid aside from work by the measles. We are glad to state that most of them have resumed while the rest are in a fair way for recovery.]

UNIVERSITY OF HALIFAX.

SINCE the passing of the University Act last winter, a great deal has been said and written on the subject. There is one part of the Act, however, to which it may be well to draw the attention of our readers. In the eleventh Section of this Act we find the following statement in reference to the Members of Convocation. "The following Graduates of the University, for the time being shall constitute the Convocation of the University, (that is to say,) all Doctors of Law, Doctors of Medicine, Doctors of Science, and Masters of Arts, all Bachelors of Law and Bachelors of Medicine of two years' standing, and all Bachelors of Arts and Bachelors of Science of three years' standing, except that no Graduate of any such Universities or Colleges, shall be admitted as a member of Convocation, who shall not within one year from the time this Act goes into operation, cause his name and such further particulars as may be required, to be entered on the Register of Convocation hereinafter mentioned."

Now, from a careful reading of the above it will be seen that all those students who have

graduated as Bachelors of Arts during the past three years are excluded from the privilege of having their names registered as members of Convocation. For the Act expressly says that only Bachelors of Arts of three years' standing can be admitted as members of Convocation; and that no graduate shall be admitted as a member unless he shall have registered his name on or before the 4th day of April, 1877. Now it is impossible for those who have graduated during the last few years to become at any future time members of Convocation, for they cannot register their names before the 4th day of April, after which date no names can be received.

No reason can, I suppose, be given why the same privilege that has been granted to those who graduated previous to 1874, should not be granted to those who have graduated since that date. It is the professed aim of all of our colleges to raise the standard gradually from year to year, and therefore the Graduates of the last few years are fully as well educated as those of longer standing. Further, the graduating classes have been larger during the last few years than formerly, and if they are not allowed to enjoy the same privilege as those who graduated a year or two before them, quite a large number of the best of our graduates will be prevented from having any influence whatever in the working of the new Act.

After the University is in good running order, and students have had an opportunity of presenting themselves for examination, then only those who graduate from the University can expect to be members of Convocation; but until an opportunity has been given for students to be examined, surely the same privilege should be granted to those who have graduated since '74, and to those who may happen to graduate next spring, as has already been granted to those of longer standing. Should, however, the University be prepared to publish examination papers next spring, the privilege should not be granted to the present graduating classes. If the University is not prepared to hold examinations, then it is nothing but just and right that they, too, should enjoy the same privilege.

This part of the Act to which reference has been made in this article should be brought to the notice of the Senate, which will meet again in a few weeks. It has probably escaped their notice, but when they come to see the unfairness that will result from the carrying out the Act as it now stands, they will probably use their en-

deavours to have this unfairness removed. If the Senate would bring this subject to the notice of the Government, the remedy could be effected.

Our object is merely to draw attention to this particular part of the Act, which seems to have escaped the notice of many who have written on this subject. We now leave it with "the Powers that be" to take action upon the matter, hoping that they will do so at an early date.

F. W. A.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Lawrence Collegian* for October has a very remarkable poem "in memoriam" of a student. Its rhythm is perfect and musical and yet wholly free and unobtrusive. The sentiment is very beautiful and tender, and at the same time sensible and manly. We have not for some time read a poem which gave such striking indications of power. The poem entitled "Thought" is also very good. Most of its editorials, and some of its articles are totally spoiled by being cut up into very short paragraphs. The November number of the same journal has the same fault in an aggravated form. "Early English Writers" reads remarkably like a note-book, partly on this account and partly from its general meagreness. Is not "Afterwards, from the Greek" taken from a recent translation of early Christian hymns?

The *Collegian* of Cornell College, Iowa, says, "Most of the criticisms passed upon others are for the express purpose of persuading people that their authors are better and wiser than the average of men." We notice this sentiment cropping up in several of our exchanges. Perhaps it is correct, but certainly those who are continually giving utterance to it, are guilty of the very fault which they charge upon the critics. The *Collegian* speaks of an exchange as "a constant visitor to our *sanctorum*" Is that Latin or English?

The *College Olio* of November 25th boasts that "The entire literary department of this number the Olio is composed of articles contributed by Alumni and students not members of the Editorial corps." No wonder they say "This is as it should be." To us it seems as a dream of Elysium. We hope that our students and Alumni will take hint thereby, and betimes remember their own little sheet.

The *University Magazine* is a very well got up

journal. It has the common form of College papers, that is twelve double-column pages with cover for advertisements. It opens with a poem on Shakespeare in Alcaics, in which as we would naturally expect, sense is sacrificed to Alcaics. "Buddha and his Followers" well deserves reading. "Evidences" is a very good specimen of a philosophical article.

The *Bruunonian* is similar in form to the above, having, however, sixteen pages of reading matter. It has six editors and, its price is \$2.00, one number being issued every third Saturday during the Collegiate year. Perhaps the best article in the last issue is that entitled, "How is original thought possible?" It shows strong, sound sense and good thinking; and though it is a little rambling, it is, perhaps, all the more readable on that account. "College Windows" is a clever parody on Tennyson's "Break, break, break."

We have already noticed the improved appearance of the *Acadia Athenaeum*. The contents are up to par. An extract of a letter from J. G. Schurman, who won the Gilchrist Scholarship in 1875, particularly took our admiration. He sketches merely, but sketches in such a way as to make us wish for something fuller, a month's travel in England and Scotland. We are disposed to make every allowance for misprints, but when we find half-a-dozen *proper names* misprinted within the compass of a column, surely the claim on our sympathy is rather large. It indicates a great deal of carelessness if nothing else. "The eternal Freshness of Great Truths" is written in style of rounded eloquence which is valuable when it contains ideas. We think there are some in this article. The writer proceeds on the genuine sermonizing plan of throwing a haze of mystery around his subject, and then clearing it away for the delight and edification of his readers. The *Athenaeum* and the *Argosy* are at swords points over the University of Halifax. We are glad to see them keeping up the fun; but we would really feel a little tremulous to hear so much talk of "whipping" and "clubbing," were it not for the comfortable reflection that they are far, far apart.

It is said that there is in existence an unpublished lyric poem of Milton. It seems that a copy was given by him to a friend. It will be published on the 9th of December, 1876, in commemoration of his birth.

OUR SOCIETIES.

THE KRITOSOPHIAN has had five very successful meetings since the beginning of this Session. On Friday evening, Nov. 24th, the following question was discussed,—“Does the country contribute more to the intellectual wealth of the nation than the town?” This subject was opened by W. S. Whittier, who spoke in favour of the town. B. McKittrick responded, and a lively discussion followed. On being put to vote it was decided in favour of the country. Friday evening, Dec. 1st, was devoted to the reading of original papers. Anderson Rogers was the first essayist. He had just recovered from the measles and his paper was headed “Measles.” F. W. Archibald then read a paper on “Compulsory Education.” He advocated that children between the ages of seven and fourteen years should be compelled to attend school at least eight months out of the year, unless detained by sickness. W. S. Whittier followed with an article in which he discussed the warlike tendencies of men, and the improbability of an early establishment of universal peace.

EXCELSIOR, at its second meeting debated the subject,—“Which has the brighter prospects, the Dominion of Canada or the United States?” and decided in favour of Canada. At its third meeting the question, “Which most contributes to our enjoyment, nature or art.” At its fourth meeting the subject, “Should women be allowed equal civil privileges with men?” was pleasantly discussed and decided in the affirmative by the tie vote of the President.

A STUDENTS' MEETING was held on the evening of Dec. 1st. The only business was the appointment of two additional members to the Finance Committee, B. McKittrick (vice H. Murray resigned) and J. A. Cairns.

A YEAR ago the critics were vigorously buzzing over Tennyson's “Queen Mary.” It has passed on to the upper shelf, and new victims have been supplied to them. But rarely, perhaps never, has so abundant a feast fallen into their trough as they have enjoyed in “Daniel Deronda.” They have considered it book by book, then when it was finished considered it as a whole, and finally they have offered a few general remarks. Harper's instead of dealing with it across the counter among the other books, takes it into the cosy little parlor of the “Editor's Drawer,” as who should say, “Of course we make a difference with you.” The Monthlies have articles on it; the Quarterlies have articles on it; it has figured times innumerable in the book notices of newspapers. And in Halifax “A person of no taste” reviews it in the “Morning Chronicle.” Poor Daniel Deronda! Who next?

Dallusiensia.

RASHNESS.—A General after whittling maliciously at his corns, calmly remarks, “There's a divinity that *shapes our ends, rough hew* them how we will.”

ELAGRET *rumore malo quum hic atque ille.* A Senior thinks it is a prophetic allusion to two of our prominent politicians. But he does not say which is “hic” and which is “ille.”

PROF.—“We will stop a quarter before the hour to-day”— Interruption and loud applause. Prof. continues, “to work exercises.” General depression.

SIGNS of educational improvement—The Janitor was seen carrying in a map the other day.

A SENIOR who a few nights ago in debate indulged the most astounding and exaggerated statistics excused himself by saying that they were mere figures of speech.

ONE of our Freshmen, in an essay, calls the history of the Guibord case, “An account of a *grave* trouble.”

Personals.

G. L. GORDON, a General Student of the Senior Class of last Session, is studying theology at the Presbyterian Seminary in this city.

DUNCAN MCKENZIE, also a General of that Class, has likewise joined the school of the prophets, and is at present attending the same Institution.

R. C. MACRAE, Soph. '76 is enjoying rustic life at his natal place, Point Prim, P. E. I.

W. S. STEWART, Soph. '76, is a Junior at McGill.

DAN. MCINTYRE, a Freshman of last year, wields a ferule in one of the public schools, St. John, N. B.

E. MCLELLAN, a Freshman of last Session, is “Monarch of all he surveys” in one of the departments in Pictou Co. Academy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

FOR 1875-6.

J. B. Morrow, \$1; J. A. Forbes, \$2; F. Bremner, \$1; A. Whitman, \$2; Dr. Geddes, \$1; W. R. Fraser, \$2.

FOR 1876-7.

Prof. Lyall, \$1; Prof. Liechti, \$1.50; W. H. Waddell, \$2; S. Archibald, \$1; W. S. Whittier, \$1; H. Murray, \$1; W. T. Kennedy, \$1; S. Keith, \$1; I. L. Archibald, \$1; W. R. Fraser, \$1.

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