

A tribute was paid to the United Empire Loyalists, whose names in the land of their adoption, are perpetuated by headland, lake and mountain top.

We feel assured that we are expressing the sentiments of all present when we declare the evening to have been a most enjoyable one. The Doctor's geniality and pleasant humour gained the immediate and hearty sympathy of his hearers. The thanks of the Society and audience were tendered to Dr. Bourinot by C. B. Freeman, president of the Athenæum Society, who in a neat little speech assured him in his own phraseology that he had won the jury.

ATHLETICS.

The utility and necessity of Athletics for college students needs no advocacy at Acadia. The subject in general is almost an hackneyed one. Yet, if figures speak the truth, there is a certain phase of college athletics which will bear a few words.

College sports are not self-sustaining. The energy expended is unproductive. Hence the fact that opportunities for the practice of athletics exist in our midst can only be explained on the supposition of voluntary contribution. Wisely or unwisely, the "powers that be" have generously left to us the raising and disbursing of these funds—the supplying of power and running of the machinery of athletics. That this machinery is hidden to the majority of the students we conclude as we notice the disparity between the meetings of the Athenæum and the Acadia Amateur Athletic Association. How many of the students of college and academy know the full import to themselves of those letters—A. A. A. A.? Know henceforth that they symbolize the organization to which you are indebted for whatever opportunities for field sports you may have enjoyed here during the past few months.

This is the only society existing, with the approval of the college authorities, for the maintenance of field sports. It is the one society of Acadia which is recognized by, and has representation in the "Maritime Province Football Union." In the A. A. A. A. are merged the old football, baseball, and cricket clubs; and it has also absorbed the more recently organized lacrosse club. All too completely absorbed has the last been, we fear, for we notice with regret

the absence of interest in that one distinctively Canadian game.

These, then, are the facts. *Two hundred* athletic young men. An athletic association with aims and manner of working approved by the Faculty, and for all practical purposes endowed with the University Campus. With plenty of men, plenty of machinery, and plenty of room, we certainly have all the factors necessary for the purpose. But, let it be remembered, factors by themselves are useless. To get results there must be combination. And "there's the rub," for only *sixty* of these *two hundred* men are members of the Athletic Association.

This fact is suggestive. Do only these *sixty* take part in any of the sports? Do the remaining *one hundred and forty* abstain entirely? An affirmative answer would reveal a lamentable state of affairs. A negative response involves facts of another character, but quite as lamentable.

Let us investigate. Take the *seventy-five* men who composed the class football teams of College and Academy. Add twenty-five, a low estimate of the number who played football in addition to those on the teams, and we have *one hundred* football players. By hypothesis forty of these do not belong to the Association. Take also the baseball players, and those who might wish to use the apparatus of the Association in jumping, vaulting and pitching quoits, and how are they increased—these non-associational athletes, who wish the privileges of the Association, but who seem quite willing to forego the responsibilities of membership. It appears evident that during the past term sixty individuals furnished athletics for themselves, and *at least sixty others* who were, we must assume, equally able with them to bear the expense.

The facts have been plainly stated, but of course facts never offend. There is certainly something wrong somewhere. Either the A. A. A. A. is not fitted to do the work it undertakes, or the students who take part in the sports are wrong in not supporting the Association.

Certainly no man, without membership has any better right to the privileges of the Athletic Association than to the privileges of the Athenæum or Lyceum. It is manifestly unfair for a minority to provide means of recreation and exercise for the majority. With co-operation the individual tax may be light, and yet the Association be upon a firm financial basis. The ordinary apparatus may be provided and a surplus remain for such purposes as improving the campus. As matters stand now the Association is in