

# THE PORTFOLIO.

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## ✻ The Portfolio. ✻

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## ✻ Editorials. ✻

✻ I T may not be out of place for me to say something with regard to the Senior Literary Society. At the commencement of the scholastic year, we felt anxious for fear that it would not prove as interesting as it formerly had, on account of the small number of members; but time has shown us that what cannot be made up in quantity may be made up in quality. The Society has developed some fine debaters and good essay writers, not to mention the musical talents of others. The usual diffidence noticed in young lady debaters is not seen here. In looking over some old PORTFOLIOS, a description was found of the manner in which the young ladies then debated; but whether it was a caricature or not, it showed pretty accurately the ridiculous attempts some had made.

A few stick-in-the-mud people think debating is not for girls; that it causes them to acquire too much of an independent air. Experience shows that this is not the case, and the "searching up" that is necessary brings a store of knowledge to the mind not likely to be found in ordinary reading. The essays are of a high character and indicate a good deal of original thought. It would be impossible to describe the delightful music that is rendered—anyone who is acquainted with Prof. Ambrose may. Only the main features of the Society have been mentioned; and when the year ends, our chief regret will be that we cannot assemble every Saturday afternoon in the little drawing-room to enjoy the intellectual feast.

It was with great delight that we heard the glad news that Mr. Hiraiwa, a Japanese Methodist minister, would spend a week in Hamilton. Twice our Principal allowed us to attend and many were the useful little scraps we gathered from the two addresses. If Mr. Hiraiwa is a type of the average Japanese physically, they are not the equals of the good old Saxon race, although mentally they may be. He wore the native costume and one very odd thing we noticed about it, viz: that of wearing the family crest on his right scapula. Mr. Hiraiwa spoke of the condition of women in his country and the means employed to improve it. By introducing the dance some had thought this would end would be accomplished, Mr. Hiraiwa added: "I do not know what it may do for Canadian women but it proved a degrading rather than uplifting influence in Japan." One could not but form a favorable opinion of the "land of the rising sun" after hearing Mr. Hiraiwa, for his is the patriots' boast that "his first, best country, ever is at home." Mr. McDonald also made a strong appeal on