

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

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Editors for 1876-77.

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WE would again call the attention of the undergraduates to the invaluable advantages which the Literary Society puts within their easy reach, and remind those who have not as yet availed themselves of their privileges in this respect that they are neglecting a most important part of their university training. The society has for its object the promotion of literary and scientific pursuits among its members, and, above all, endeavours to cultivate facility and aptness of expression in the art of public speaking. This art is one that cannot be acquired by the greatest regularity and punctuality in attendance on lectures, the most assiduous poring over the works of the best authors, or the most careful study of theories, any more than one can learn to speak a language by merely hearing it spoken—an art the acquisition of which is not provided for in our collegiate course, and it is just possible for a student to take the very highest standing in the college examinations, and still be unable to stand up on the floor of an assembly-room and give utterance to half-a-dozen coherent syllables. It is not to be denied that there are many men who have scarcely the rudiments of a liberal education, that are able to speak eloquently in public, and who, had they been favoured by the acquirement of such knowledge as our University affords, would have made their voices heard in the councils of their country, and most probably have honourably associated their names with its history; yet, it is true, the number of those that possess such powers is comparatively small, but powers alike in kind, however different in degree, are to be found in all, the development of which is to be ensured only by practice; and, so long as these powers are left unexercised, so long shall they lie dormant without giving the least indication that they exist at all. It is the duty, then, of every student of McGill (it matters not to what faculty he belongs), to put himself in as favourable a position as possible for drawing forth these latent energies; for, as soon as he has left these academic halls with the much-prized badge of his scholarly attainments, he may, by virtue of his new position, be called upon at any time to address an audience, and in this he will find that all he has learned merely in his course of study will go but a short way in producing fluency of speech. Now, we know of only one effective means by which

powers of eloquence can be so cultivated as to give confidence to the speaker, and enable him to set forth his thoughts in a clear and connected manner, and that is, for students to join some society or club in which they shall have both ample and frequent opportunities of engaging in discussions and debates. Such a society is the University Literary Society, which, though it is not the only one in Montreal of a literary character, still claims the support and co-operation of our students. If Canada is ever to have her Burkes or Chathams who shall look upon McGill as their *Alma Mater* (and who can doubt it), we have no hesitation in saying that they will, from their eminence, regard the University Literary Society with a profound feeling of indebtedness. Let our students, then, with a true spirit of devotion to the welfare and prosperity of all that is connected with their *Alma Mater*, consider it a duty as well as a privilege to join in upholding an institution that has for its object only the good of its members.

VARIOUS mysterious operations are going on upon the college grounds; and we have heard vague rumours of the Faculty stipulating for a hydrant to furnish water for the students' skating rink, on condition that the City Corporation be allowed to carry a main through the campus. We suppose this is the main, and we hope so, for a good rink on the grounds in winter would furnish a means of exercise to the hard working student, at once healthy and pleasant. Although the attempt last year was a wretched failure, on account of the changeable weather, still, in this case, "try again" should be our motto. Moreover, that auspicious personage, Mr. Vennor, has promised a good winter, so we need have no apprehensions of a rink *going to grass* so literally as it did last season.

WE regret to hear that Harvard has been beaten by Yale in the late football match. The score shows that Harvard had really the best of the match, as she obtained three touchdowns, while Yale secured one goal; but, whatever the match shows, still it is nominally a defeat for Harvard. It is said that Seaman's missed a place-kick for the first time during a match. We hope that Harvard will soon regain her laurels; indeed, we are magnanimous enough to wish that no club may ever beat her, except our own, or some other Canadian team.

WE have received a reply to "Undergraduate," from Mr. R. B. Rogers, which unfortunately we cannot insert, through lack of space. There seems to be no cause for any misunderstanding. The rule had been made before the sports came off, and if Mr. O'Heir were in any doubt as to the term "undergraduate," it surely was not the fault of the committee.