

The Presbyterian College Journal,

Published MONTHLY throughout each Session (from October to April inclusive) by the Alma Mater Society of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, P. Q.

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RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION:

For the Session, 50 cents, invariably in advance.

Single copies, 10 cents Extras (to subscribers) 5 cents each.

The safest and simplest method to remit subscriptions is by postal money orders, which can be procured at any money order office in the Dominion, at 2 cents for any sum less than \$4.00.

The JOURNAL is for sale at Dawson Bros., Drysdale's, and the other city bookstores.

All communications and exchanges must be addressed to the

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL,
 Montreal, Canada.

MONTREAL, P.Q., OCTOBER, 1881.

THE COLLEGE JOURNAL of last session, owned and edited by our enterprising young friend, has now passed from its condition as a private venture and become the official organ of the Alma Mater Society of this College. It now appears as one of the recognized institutions of our Seminary, *vide* Calendar for current Session, and report of the Faculty to the last General Assembly.

In making our *début* under new auspices, we would remind the gentle reader that ours is a college journal, that is, a record of college events. We do not, however, consider that, though thus moving within the circle of the learned, it gives us liberty to indulge in bad Latin jokes and abstruse classical allusions, nor make our pages a mosaic of languages, living and dead. It would be well, also, to bear in mind that it is a Theological and Presbyterian institution which we represent. This need not excite undue alarm, for we assure our readers its pages will not be used as a literary "line," on which to air passages of surpassing beauty in elegant sermons, which might not otherwise be handed down to a grateful posterity; nevertheless, the tone and character of our JOURNAL is determined by its connection. There will be nothing permitted within, which is not strictly consistent with, and correspondent to, the title without. As an organ of student (Theological) opinion its columns will be open for any communication of an appropriate character. We invite short articles of a practical description on mission work, especially in the home fields during summer; spheres of

usefulness in our cities during the winter session; methods of study, special subjects of study, and elective courses; the B. D. degree; past graduate courses; female missionary education, etc., etc.

Our desire is to be useful—practical rather than ornamental. This object can only be attained by the united sympathy and support of our fellow students. We plead for your suffrage, and shall expect your subscriptions, especially do we look for co-operation on the part of our graduates.

Alma Mater Society.

THE membership of this Society is drawn from alumni, including graduates of this College, and graduates of other Presbyterian colleges, who have received part of their theological training in this College, and from students, including regular students in theology, and students on the roll of the College, who are pursuing their literary studies.

The great object of the Society is to foster among the members a spirit of loyal attachment to the College, and to promote its welfare by such means as may be desired from time to time.

Meantime the Society has on foot three projects: First, in time, as in general interest, is the annual banquet held at the close of the session, where the graduates *sub* and *post* together with the professors, city ministers and college patrons, with their wives, discuss good cheer, and felicitate each other. Second, a scholarship of fifty dollars for proficiency in oriental studies known as the alumni scholarship. Third, the COLLEGE JOURNAL, whose object and claims are stated above.

Manitoba Visited.

Is this the land upon whose name
 My thoughts in early days oft pondered,
 Can I believe this is the same
 To which I now at length have wandered?

Is this the happy hunting ground
 I pictured in my boyish fancy?
 How strange the contrast I have found,
 'Tis changed as by some necromancy.

No more the noble red man roams
 In quest of elk and moose and bison,
 We see nought but the white man's homes
 Rising against the far horizon.

The plough upturns the virgin soil,
 And fields of grain are densely growing
 To recompense the settler's toil
 And all the cares of spring-time sowing.

The telegraph and railway train
 Are working wonders in their motion,
 Linking us with an iron chain
 The eastern and the western ocean.

My thoughts turn from the dreamy past
 To active scenes now of the present,
 And future times would fain forecast
 With scenes of life e'en still more pleasant.

When all this wide extended plain
 Shall teem with human habitations,
 Where peace and righteousness remain
 The strongest safeguard of the nations.

J. B. S.