

fiendish, barbed tails before our eyes. They peep and mutter. Life is a burden. The future leers upon us. The years are prickly with——Hulloa! We've been asleep. Great snakes, what a horrid dream!

Last year an article appeared in the *ATHENÆUM* criticising the loose regard paid to the wearing of caps and gowns and appealing to the Faculty to impose more stringent requirements in relation thereto. Nothing has been done in the matter; and there is cause for complaint. If the custom is to survive it should survive in decency. At present it may justly be called threadbare and ragged. A large number have no gowns, a larger number have no caps, and this in face of the expressed rule of the college. On public occasions a few appear in full dress, and only a few. And, then, instead of putting on his gown and walking to the hall, the modest young man frequently squeezes it under his arm and dons it when he has reached the entrance. This, no doubt, is suggestive of a retiring disposition, but it is not particularly graceful or dignified. We do not much wonder that this "cat-in-a-strange-garret" feeling prevails, when we consider how rarely gowns are worn. From the number we have heard express dissatisfaction with the present state of affairs, we believe that a large proportion of students desire a change and a thorough one. But unless some absolute requirement is made there is no hope of the desired reform. Hence we look to the Faculty. It would be in many ways better if the old custom of wearing the gowns every day were revived, and though we have not space to discuss the reasons in full, one may be named. In the college are some students who have plenty of money, and others who have painfully little. The former are able to wear good clothes, the latter not. When both are in ordinary attire a distinction is obvious. If gowns were worn all would appear on an equal footing. The impecunious student could wear his old coat without suffering continual mortification. In this way the gown would serve an economical purpose;

but at present every cap and gown purchased is an extra drain on the purse. To many this is a consideration of some moment. In view of this fact, and others which a little reflection will suggest, we ask that attention may be given to the subject.

Mrs. Partington is extremely anxious that Ike should be invited to precipitate in the coming concert. She says he has made such progress both in influential and focal *music* that he would do credit to any *museum* in the province, and that he is the most incombustible *school* of the art who has yet come under her operation.

### Our Exchanges.

One of our most arduous duties is this writing of exchange notes, and were it not that we might be thought not to appreciate the friendly visits of our contemporaries we would like sometimes to excuse ourselves from the task. As we have been able only to glance hastily over our exchange list for the present month our notices must of necessity be brief.

Many of our exchanges this year have come to us greatly improved both in appearance and in contents. This we are pleased to note. The end to be gained by college journalism is not very well defined, but we believe that it is accomplishing a good work in the interests of our educational institutions, while it gives students a good idea of what is being done in other institutions besides their own. There is one pleasant feature about college journals, we bear each other's weaknesses with more equanimity than most other literary periodicals do. Occasionally some ardent youth gets hold of the exchange quill, and with ideas no broader than the walls of his *sanctum*, constructs some formidable criticisms, rather might we say, hyper-criticisms. This, we are told, is an age of criticism, and we believe that criticism forms an important factor in the literature of the day; but when it attempts to rule out of existence other branches of literature quite as legitimate as itself, and in many respects its superior, it has stepped beyond its proper bounds. The ideal poetry, and general literature of criticism is not always that which meets the wants of real life; and any attempt to set prescribed limits, or to measure out the living thoughts of writers by a rule-and-compass method, will be as futile as the building of air-castles, or the attempt to twist ropes of sand. One exception to the general leniency of college critics we noticed lately in the