

sensible and well-written article, it matters not what the subject be, commands attention, and is always suitable for the columns of a college journal. In our prospectus we have stated our intention of admitting to our columns articles on current topics; and we intend to carry out that prospectus, until we are convinced that it is defective. The *Sunbeam* asks:—"Is that fair dealing? to receive and even solicit all the aid a mother country can give, until, strengthened by that very aid, we spurn both her support and her government? Does that breathe a true spirit of independence?" We answer this by asking in turn:—"Is it fair dealing for a grown-up son to leave his parental roof and engage in business for himself? Does this action on the son's part necessarily lessen his filial affection?" *Canada First* says:—"England, we are confident, will never coerce Canada into remaining in the Empire if she feels inclined to depart;" and we are of the same opinion. Moreover, by being independent Canada will not necessarily "spurn" the mother country; we fail to see whence such a conclusion could be drawn. On the contrary, it would be, as it were, strengthened in filial affection by the close bonds of mutually political relation which would then exist between both nations. Again, we did not advocate immediate separation, we spoke of it as an event in the far distant future. We would indeed be sorely grieved to find our local column degenerating to that grade of which the *Sunbeam* speaks. If there are any hidden meanings clothed in the items of our local column, they are perfectly understood by our students. We do not suppose that every one who receives a college journal can fathom the meaning of many of its locals. These, we all know, are peculiar to the college whence they emanate, and are very frequently *lapsus linguae*. We thank you, kind *Sunbeam*, for your notice, and trust that you may be perfectly satisfied by our few corrections.

DIVERSA.

- Gold wire was first made in Italy in 1350.
- In 1583 the first botanical garden was made at Padua.
- It is asserted that the ancient Romans had a knowledge of black lead pencils.
- The Laval question has been definitely settled by our Holy Father, Leo XIII, in favor of the University.
- The poison of the sting received from a bee or wasp may be extracted by the pressure of a watch key on the part affected.
- The age of Alchemy extends from the middle of the fourteenth to the first part of the sixteenth century.
- In Lanerstoke, Hampshire, stands the mill in which the paper for the bank of England notes has been made since 1719.
- A curious case has been recently reported in California. A man was bitten by a rabbit;

and, though the wound was a mere scratch, his physician experienced great difficulty in saving his life. This fact so impressed the medical practitioner that he investigated the tooth of the upper jaw of rabbits; and found a hollow tooth, containing matter so poisonous that two drops inserted beneath the skin of a lamb caused an almost instantaneous death.

—THE CANADIAN FLAG. The Canadian trophy at the Paris Exhibition, which cost the Government \$20,000, was one of the sights that did the most credit to our national products and manufacturing industry. Although covered with foreign flags, we are told that not a single Canadian Flag could find its place on this Canadian Trophy. Were our commissioners ashamed of it? If so we are ashamed of them. Let us have Canada first, last, and every time.—*Canada First*.

—It is not a universally known fact that honey, in bad seasons, is liable to be vitiated by the juice which the bees extract from poisonous plants, to which they are driven by the absence of those herbs from which at other times they are accustomed to procure the materials of this hoarded delicacy. A specimen of honey gathered from the *Rhododendron ponticum* is said to have retained its poisonous qualities for twenty-five years. Honey procured from the flowers of the *Kalmia latifolia* caused great destruction of life at Philadelphia in 1790. All poisonous plants should, then, be removed from proximity to bee-hives.

—It is a very noticeable fact that alcohol does not form so important a part in the composition of medicine as was formerly the custom. More nutritive potions are being constantly sought for; and, though alcohol is essential in some diseases, it cannot be questioned that in others it should give place to aliments better calculated to raise and sustain the physical powers. Several expert physicians have stated that, were it replaced by some invigorating food, the substitution would prove not only beneficial in those cases in which a stimulating influence is required, but also when the system needs no sustaining force. In this latter case it is positively deleterious.

—Chas. Fradell, the eminent composer and musician, not long ago was out of funds. This was so unusual an occurrence that it caused him to reflect deeply. After a time an idea occurred to him, and he entered Steinway Hall. "William," said he, "all great artists have benefit concerts. I am a great artist, and I am going to have a benefit. How many tickets will you take?" William Steinway murmured something about the rock of Gibraltar, and said, "How much are they?" "One dollar a piece," replied Fradello. "Well," sighed Mr. Steinway, making a face as if he had bitten a green persimmon, "I guess I will have to take ten!" "Stay," said Fradell, "I have an idea. Suppose you give me five dollars, and I give no concert, then we'll both make money."—Ex.