

EXCHANGES.

A special feature of the *University Monthly* is its sketches of the poets. In the last issue Wordsworth and Burns are discussed. The poetry of this journal is always up to the mark.

The influence and power of the press is so widespread that there need be no apology for touching on some of its most salient features. The chief functions of a journal are briefly to amuse, to impart information, to correct error, to voice sound public opinion and to encourage literary taste and activity among its supporters. Speaking of journals in general we may say that the great majority of them do not exercise all these functions but omit one or more of them and are thus incomplete or do not come up to the standard of an ideal paper. For instance a journal conducted on a strictly religious basis with a man deeply imbued with theology at its head would probably be devoid of a column of jokes. Of course one does not expect a church journal to be particularly facetious but then no one cares to see it altogether confined to heavy matter except indeed he is a religious monomaniac. One advantage of having such a column may be mentioned here as a hint gathered from the frequent recurrence of antiquated witticisms in some of our exchanges, namely, that it can always be kept on file, it is perennial. Let us take some other instances in which papers fall below our ideal. A journal which has a sensational dime-novelistic, and penny-dreadful tendency might not correct many errors but on the contrary tend to spread them, while our newspapers do little or nothing to encourage literary activity among their supporters. It is true that some of them, with a view to increased subscriptions, announce in large letters prize competitions, &c., and not a few subscribers make heroic efforts to achieve fame and grasp the prize but these efforts are fitful and spasmodic.

While these and many more are omissions we find also that sins of commission are numerous. Who cares to read the articles of a bitterly partisan journal unless he himself be intensely devoted to politics? When we read such a publication and then pick up a bright cheery journal without the taint of politics or the corruption of bribes, we feel as if we had passed from a gloomy region

with noxious mephitic atmosphere to pure sunshine and exhilarating air. By contact with the one we are contaminated and mislead but by perusing the other we are morally and mentally braced. The non-partisan journal may also treat of politics but while the partisan one must be on one side of the fence with a circumscribed horizon, the other takes up an independent position on the fence and obtains a more general view of the situation. So much for journalism in general; let us now turn our attention to those published by students. Strange to say defects and omissions can also be noticed in them. A few of our contemporaries almost fill their space with purely local news, they forget that extended reports of the meetings of societies, clubs, &c., attached to any one college are entirely devoid of interest to students of other colleges and that their own men probably know of them before the edition is issued. There is no objection to a right proportion of local items, but the paper should never be brimful of them, a line must be drawn somewhere. On the other hand we have college publications which are too general in their tone. Such are those which discuss the politics of Europe, the athletics of America or the apologetics of Christendom. Imagine, a college journal, with all gravity advising Gladstone as to how he should grapple with the Home Rule question, or pointing out the advantages of the bi-metallic system or worst of all publishing the relative standing of the players of a baseball league totally unconnected with its college. Here again a definite limit is necessary, an area beyond which a college paper should not wander. What then should be allowed to appear? No one could answer this question in a way satisfactory to all. Literary matters, college politics, expressions of current thought, descriptive articles which are good in substance and form, and real poetry are always in place; local bits, if not too trivial, should receive a limited amount of attention. Topics of more general college interest can form editorials. An exchange column as an act of courtesy and recognition should be inserted. It may be made one of the best parts of the paper if it be managed judiciously and selectively.

We have also received the hand-book to the Colonial Exhibition, entitled "Canada." No doubt it will give intending emigrants a fair idea of the wealth and resources of our country.

THE DOMINION ORGAN AND PIANO COMPANY.

A visit to the extensive Piano and Organ Warerooms of JOSEPH RUSE, whose advertisement appears elsewhere, will be found interesting and entertaining. There are four large flats filled with instruments. The first presents as grand a display as we have ever seen, of Square and Upright pianos both of foreign and home make—the latter the Dominion. From this storeroom a grand stairway leads to the second story, devoted chiefly to Grand Pianos and organs. The third and fourth flats above this contain a large stock of second-hand instruments. Pianists are courteous, assistants are always in attendance and pleased to show and let you have any instruments in these grand and grandly stocked warerooms. It is a sight in itself to see so many instruments, some of which are perfect models of mechanical beauty, to say nothing of their captivating tone and musical accuracy, grouped together in one building.

JOSEPH RUSE, *Manager.*