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## THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM,

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We tender our thanks to the person who sent us the copy of the ATHENÆUM advertised for.

It was Sir Charles Lyell's habit, while composing his books, to give a "two hours' spell" to work, and then rest two hours, carefully avoiding reflection or conversation on the subjects he was writing about. Then he would take another "two hours' spell," which completed his work for the day. "After lying two hours fallow," he says in one of his letters, "the mind is refreshed, and then in five minutes your fancy will frame speculations which it will take you the two hours to realize on paper." Composition is exhausting work even when one is wholly in the mood for it; but by resolutely taking fifteen minutes' rest at the end of each hours' work, one can continue for six or eight hours with less fatigue than would result from three hours' constant toil. Not only is the work made easier, but the results are more satisfactory, both as to quality and quantity.—Ex.

We conclude from the failure to respond to our call for contributions by our graduates, that they are of the opinion that any thing which they might have to say would be unacceptable. The interest in our paper would doubtless be enhanced by letters from members of the Alumni.

For several years our students have kept up a course of lectures, and endeavored to secure the best men available with the means at their disposal. Although we have in some cases been deceived, yet we have made these exceptions lessons for our better choice in the future. We can scarcely estimate the benefit derived from our course, and to many of the speakers we feel indebted for giving to us the results of their labor for a trifle. We have on our list for this year, some of the best speakers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and hope to secure the services of Archibald Forbes, the famous war correspondent. If our present engagements are fulfilled, we are confident that not only will we reap a benefit, but that our patrons will also share in the good.

We acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the "Gunhild Letters," a pamphlet addressed to the Bishop of Ontario, in support of the bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister. To make a review of this work is not in our line, and we do not care to pass it unnoticed. The work is evidently a remarkable production, displaying not only an ingenious use of language in smiting the bishops and priests with well-aimed sarcasm, but also arguments which appear unanswerable. The letters show a careful study of the writings of the fathers, and diligent inquiry into the origin of portions of Scripture. On reading this we were led to doubt the right of the clergy of any religious sect to use their influence in placing restrictions upon a nation, on account of scruples which they may have in reference to certain passages of Scripture. Those unacquainted with this much discussed question, can obtain a good knowledge of it from these letters.