

Society of the Ladies' College, Whitby, Ont. We congratulate the editors of the *Sunbeam* on the appearance of its first issue, and offer our best wishes for its future.

THE Richmond College *Messenger*, for December, contains an article entitled "The Lawyer,—a Plea for the Proscribed," an able defence of the much-abused class, proving them to be worthy the admiration instead of the contumely of the "unprofessional public." We were quite amused on reading the lengthy editorial on the practice of calling new students "rats," which began by speaking of the usage as "well-established and heartily endorsed," and ended by declaring that "man's intellectual redemption and social salvation hinged upon the observance of the custom," after which it was concluded by an earnest appeal to the authorities of like institutions to see that it be introduced, "that it may have free course and be glorified."

PICKING up the Christmas number of the *Dalhousie Gazette* we began reading the opening editorial. The first topic touched upon in it was the old yuletide custom of burying the hatchet, and the necessity of it in the case of the *Gazette* owing to the polemic disposition of the Exchange Editor, and then the writer wandered on into an explanation of the probable origin of the word "halcyon," from that to the likeness between Kingfishers and some kinds of college students, and then to the thoughts given rise to by the sight of the words "*suggestion and digestion*," as connected with Christmas, and after offering encouragement to contributors the editor wound up by wishing every one the compliments of the season. Evidently, the underlying thought of the editor was of Christmas, but whether that or anything else constituted the subject matter of the article was more than we could tell. Possibly the nearness of the merry season upset the editor's mental equilibrium, possibly the Christmas dinner so near at hand occupied the larger

portion of his thoughts, leaving too few to be made up and consecutively arranged in the form of an editorial.

We find upon our exchange table this month a new friend from Cortland, N. Y.—the *Normal News*. Its general tone we think is excellent. There is one thing about it, however, which we do not like, and that is the tint of the paper on which it is printed. To judge from a communication contained in the columns of the *Normal*, the Normal School scholars must be prodigies of energy, their fault being, not that they work too little, but that they work too much. Of course in every educational establishment there are a few students who overwork, but a case where all the students had to be repressed rather than encouraged has never before come under our observation. The correspondent's advice to them was quite appropriate, to study—"steady by jerks," and to be "slightly lazy."

ALEXANDER DUMAS, has gone to the South of France, to devote his whole time to his forthcoming work on "Divorce."

THERE is a tradition among Italians that the linguistic powers of Cardinal Mezzofanti were miraculous, and conferred under the following circumstances:—While a young priest he was summoned to confess two foreign prisoners who were under sentence of death, and in one night acquired enough knowledge of their language to confess them. Thenceforward he could, in an incredibly short time, acquire any tongue he pleased.

If one should give me a dish of sand and tell me there's particles of iron in it, I might look with my eyes for them and search for them with my clumsy fingers and be unable to find them, but let me take a magnet and sweep it, and how it would draw to itself the most visible particles by the mere power of attraction! The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour some heavenly blessings; only the iron in God's sand is gold.—O. W. Holmes.