

her Natural History professor who is eminently desirous of accomplishing for his classes all that lies in his power. She owes it to her students, for the opportunity is one that in the case of many will never be repeated. Blomidon, apart from its historic and poetic interest and its magnificent scenery, is an unique field for the geologist and mineralogist. A day at Partridge Island is better than months of class work, while in the vicinity Two Islands, lessons in Geology can be learned that cannot be learned anywhere else in the world. Five Islands, Cape d'Or, Isle Haut, each has its peculiar revelation for the student, while the Carboniferous strata of Apple River, Spicer's Cove, The Joggins, and the coal mines of the latter place are full of instruction and interest to the earnest student. Acadia owes it to the people that she maintains the customary expedition. Was not the old museum, built up by the devoted labors of professors Chipman, Elder, and Kennedy, a thing of pride to every friend of the college? It was by means of those expeditions, which in these latter days the college fathers seem to despise, that the old museum was made what it was and the best material of the new museum was secured. Situated as Acadia is, on the border of such an interesting field—a field of peculiar interest to geologists and mineralogists throughout the world, it is not strange that visitors to Wolfville from abroad, should visit the Museum of Acadia and expect to find the geology and mineralogy of this region at least well represented there. Just at the present time they would probably be disappointed, and with the abandonment of the Junior expedition the disappointment of future visitors will probably not be lessened.

Acadia could and should have the best equipped Museum in Canada, not excepting the Redpath Museum at Montreal, and right loyally would any student and alumnus contribute to that end if enthusiasm were not repressed by such evidence of lack of interest on the part of the College authorities, as we have lately witnessed.

I will venture the hope, Messrs. Editors, that the step taken by the Governors may yet be retraced, and that in the future, much more fully indeed than in the past our loved College may improve the privilege she enjoys of having at her doors one of the most interesting and productive fields for natural science investigation to be found in the world.

A. J. PINEO.

Miscellaneous.

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

The Acadia Athenæum society has much cause for the self gratulations in which it has indulged since Friday evening, Jan. 23. On the evening in question the society was able to present to the public in the capacity of lecturer, Mr. J. G. Bourinot, L.L. D., C. M. G., F. R. S., of Ottawa, clerk of the House of Commons.

The learned lecturer, who has acquired no small fame as an author, chose for his subject, Responsible Government in Canada. He expressed his approval because of the presence of so many ladies, declaring that what is instructive to men is beneficial to women, notwithstanding the fact that politics is not considered her domain. The speaker went on to say that the study of political science and history should receive particular attention at the universities, and that there, teachers should be trained in the principles of politics in order that they may become a power in training the public mind in the affairs of government. Referring to history, he declared the victory on the Plains of Abraham to be one of the greatest events recorded in the annals of time; a victory which transferred the ownership of a continent, and led to the loss of so large a portion immediately afterward.

The lecturer sketched rapidly the growth of constitutional government, from the rule of a few inefficient clerks in Downing Street, to the complete and noble structure of free government which to-day obtains in Canada. Referring to our own much revered Joseph Howe as the ablest exponent of responsible government the world has ever known, and the happy method adopted by him for its accomplishment, he called upon Canadians to have faith in themselves and the institutions so valiantly fought for. England's chief glory, said the speaker, arises from the proud position of her colonies. A comparison was instituted between the governmental systems of Canada and the United States, and the relative freedom of the speakers of the houses pointed out. The permanency of the senate across the border was made to appear as the chief hindrance to the people's opinion being regarded, no matter how forcibly expressed at the hustings.