

» QUEEN'S » UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXIII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, DEC. 31ST, 1895.

No. 5.

Queen's University Journal.

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers, during the Academic year.

G. R. LOWE, B.A., - - - Editor, *pro tem*.
F. PLAYFAIR, - - - Managing Editor.
W. A. McILROY, - - - Business Manager.
D. H. LAIRD, - - - Asst. Business Manager.

The annual subscription is One Dollar, payable before the end of January.

All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 1109, Kingston, Ont.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to the Business Manager.

ONLY the faithful few remain about the halls. Were they as faithful as they are few, another age of miracles would be upon us. However it is, the absent ones are not altogether absent; although the sanctum has an air of supernatural sanctity like unto Divinity Hall—in the holidays—and although the Majesty of the Concurus is most dreadful when judge and jury are mere spectres and the prisoners beyond “the test of free and open scrutiny,” yet by a hundred marks the comrades of yesterday are with us.

“Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter.”

Let us make believe that this is applicable to the case in hand, and as the unheard melody of 'Xmas homegreeting melts into our hearts, the JOURNAL heartily wishes its constituency a most Happy New Year.

* * *

As the New Year draws near, the JOURNAL would like to suggest *one* “good resolution” to be made by all students. For some years there has been a growing tendency to “cut” classes a day or two before the 'Xmas holidays begin. This year that tendency was probably more marked than ever. Many classes were sadly thinned out a whole week beforehand, while others were completely disorganized for at least three days. These things ought not to be. The Senate has dealt generously with us in so arranging holidays that every student who goes home may have two weeks and an extra Sunday there

without cutting a class. We have always claimed that students should be treated as men, and the Senate of Queen's has from time immemorial recognized that claim. But it should be remembered that the rights of men carry with them the obligations of men. If we act as school boys and persist in doing so, we must expect to be treated in the same way, and it does seem to be rather “a school boy act” to go shirking away from classes three or four days before college closes. We need hardly be surprised if after the experiences of this and past years, steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence of this act, and we would, therefore, suggest that these steps be taken by the students themselves.

In the first place let post-graduate and honor students set the example by being in their places every day of the last week. Then the Senior classes should make it a criminal offence, to be summarily dealt with by the Concurus, for any man to suggest or aid in carrying out a “cut” previous to the Friday before 'Xmas. This being done, the junior classes will readily fall into line, no class will be disorganized before Thursday night and the professors will gladly grant a holiday on Friday.

The JOURNAL, therefore, suggests, as a New Year's resolution, that the students resolve individually and collectively that they will henceforth cut no classes before the Friday previous to the 'Xmas holidays. This, we believe, is a duty which every student owes to his professor, and the recognition of it will tend to preserve the good temper of the professors and the self-respect of the students.

* * *

The recent Knox-Queen's contest has again brought forward the subject of collegiate debates. On the value of debating, as a fine art, we have grave doubts. True, an occasional joust does inspire orderly thought and concise expression, and what is still better it compels a man to grasp a subject in all its bearings. The young debater is often surprised when a weighty argument breaks from the cover of a trivial looking suggestion, just as the early settler was when he found a bush to conceal an armed warrior; in both cases vision is stimulated. So much is true, but when it is proposed to cut