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McGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, JANUARY 1ST, 1874.

The University Literary Society.

We unfortunately have not the space to give any adequate account of the Society's transactions during the month. On the 19th instant, Mr. Jenkins, who, by the way, is an old McGill man, lectured before the Society on the "Satirists of England." His lecture was a rare intellectual treat, and from all who were present, we have heard the same account, that his lecture was among the best the Society has ever presented to the public of Montreal. Some exception was taken to the subject of his lecture, inasmuch as he confined himself to Butler and his Hudibras, and did not speak of any of the other satirists of England. On the 22nd, a public debate was held in Association Hall. The subject was—"Should the people of Canada look forward to Independence; or, to a Federation of Great Britain and self-governing Colonies?" and the speakers were: on the affirmative, Messrs. N. W. Trenholme, M.A., B.C.L., and R. C. Fisher, B.C.L. On the negative, Messrs. D. McMaster, B.C.L., and G. E. Jenkins. The President, J. J. MacLaren, M.A., B.C.L., gave his annual address. Mr. S. C. Stevenson gave a reading. At the close of the meeting, Mr. Jenkins spoke a few words on the subject of debate, advocating the same views which his pamphlets on the "Centralization of the Empire" enunciate. We regret that lack of space renders it impossible for us to give an analysis both of Mr. Jenkins' lecture, and of the arguments at the public debate. In regard to the Society's disagreement with Mr. Redpath, of the Literary Bureau, it is evident to all who have read the correspondence in the public prints, that Mr. Redpath was guilty of a breach of contract.

A College Reading-Room.

Nominally there exists in the Arts Library a reading-room; but not of such a character as to lead any one to walk over to the library for the purpose of seeing any of the antiquated files of such interesting reading as the *Journal of Education*, and kindred publications, which cover its tables. But perhaps the title of reading-room, as applied to it, is somewhat misleading. The purpose for which the room is intended is this: In winter the library is too cold to allow any one to consult the volumes on its shelves,—and, indeed, at all times it would not be convenient or expedient to allow free access to it,—and this smaller room, which we call the reading-room, is used as a reading-room for the books in the library, not for the papers which are on its tables. In fact, as the name is generally used, it is not a reading-room at all.

It is hardly necessary to say much in favor of a reading-room

per se. The advantages are apparent to all, and in McGill the students, by force of circumstances, would be led to use it more than they do in other colleges. Nearly every class, on some days of the week, have to pass *spare hours*—that is, hours which intervene between lectures, and which the students now generally fill in any way the caprice of the moment suggests. We are confident that if there was a reading-room it would be used at such times, and in those other intervals between college hours; for instance, many Science students remain at the college from twelve to two, and they would only be too glad to have the opportunity of passing that long interval in a pleasant room where an abundance of periodical literature would be at hand to afford instruction, or to give relaxation from their studies. It is not our intention to say anything more on this part of the question; the instances cited above are only two of the numerous ones which will be suggested to the mind of every student, and we will now show that, to us at least, the project appears perfectly feasible.

The College subscribes for a number of periodicals now, the reviews, and several scientific and technical periodicals. Our exchanges, too, would be at the service of such a reading-room; and a very small subscription from each man in college would be sufficient to procure all the leading periodicals of Britain and America. We are inclined to think that the Faculty, judging from the cordial manner in which they have met our proposals in the past, would do everything in their power to aid our project; and it only remains to give this suggestion an actual existence, concerted and immediate action on the part of the students, and we trust that a meeting will be called, and subscriptions collected before the first week of the term goes by.

We have only called attention to this subject without attempting to support our position, that a reading-room is advantageous and easily attainable, by any arguments, thinking that the mere stating of the case will be sufficient to gain the support of all our students who are most deeply interested in the inception of a project, the advantages of which we are sure have been suggested to each one of them. In the February issue of the GAZETTE we hope to have the pleasure of announcing that the room is open, and that all the students are enjoying the opportunities of self-improvement it will undoubtedly offer.

WE understand that a secret society, similar to those in other American colleges, is now being formed in our midst. We are unaware what foundation there is for the report, not having heard the names of those interested.

SINCE the death of Dr. Smallwood, Mr. C. H. McLeod, B. A. Sc., has taken temporary charge of the Observatory.