

understanding how an article should be written or a speech delivered, be powerless to do either. The ability may exist in him ; but it has not been brought out. How many students have left college with having written scarcely a paper besides the regularly-assigned essays and theses and with having delivered scarcely an address other than those demanded for the rhetorical exhibitions. The opportunities for gaining in literary skill and debating power offered by the Athenæum Society have never been taken advantage of as might be wished. We would urge the students this year to spend more time in the debating and literary society. Time thus spent is not lost. Debates on questions occupying the public mind ; papers on live topics and discussions upon them—these, enthusiastically entered into, must be beneficial in a high degree.

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WE would urge the students, in giving due study to the works of the great authors, to devote more attention to the knowledge of our own Canadian writers. In this issue of the *ATHENÆUM* we begin a series of articles with this end in view—to invite a deeper interest in our own literature. The series is entitled, "Some Canadian Authors." Space confines us to but a few of those whom we should wish to bring before our readers. The plan of the series embraces the following men : John McPherson, Joseph Howe, Judge Haliburton, Arthur J. Lockhart, A. W. Eaton, Charles G. D. Roberts, and W. W. Campbell. The aim of the papers is to give short sketches of the lives of the different authors and critical remarks sufficient to state the important characteristics of their works ; then, by extended selections, to fully illustrate those characteristics. We hope the articles will be read with interest by all the readers of the *ATHENÆUM* who have a love for "this Canada of ours," and that the perusal may lead to a more complete acquaintance with the productions of our several writers. The first of the series—a sketch of McPherson, with an examination of his poetry—will be found in the current issue.

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It always gives us pleasure to notice a literary production by a son of Acadia. Mr. J. F. Herbin, who was graduated with the class of '90, has published a very neat volume of poems, entitled "The Marshlands." In well-wrought, melodious stanzas, our author describes and reflects upon all the prominent points of the beautiful and varied scenery of

"The Acadian land on the shores of the Basin of Minas."

His descriptions are often very vivid, and he surrounds even the most common-place things with such a poetic halo, that we verily believe that we will never again go forth grumbling to hoe potatoes or make hay in the fields, but advance with a proud port which comes from the consciousness that the Sacred Nine smile upon us and Apollo

"Awakes the quivering lyre,  
To praise the toiling swain."

Mr. Herbin in winning laurels for himself bringeth honor also to his beloved Alma Mater. The poems are well worth the time spent in perusing them. We hope that all Acadia's sons will purchase freely and read carefully.