

University Gazette,

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A suggestion has just reached the Board of Editors, that, in order to encourage snow-shoeing, a set of races should be established as soon as possible and as near as possible to the Governor's visit. A track might easily be laid on the Campus, and prizes be raised as usual by subscription from the graduates. Another suggestion, and one which might be acted upon at the same time, is to start a Toboggan Club, with weekly meetings. If both of these propositions meet with favour, as it is likely they will, the prevailing tendency of McGill will have received a new impulse, the tendency, namely, to encourage field sports. Besides this there is something national, as well as intrinsically, pleasant, in the two amusements referred to. We, therefore, propose that a joint meeting, or two several ones, be called as soon as convenient to make arrangements

It affords us much regret to chronicle, in the course of our pages, the approaching departure of Professor Duff, but however great the regret, it is mingled with as great a pride, in finding Canadian talent for the first time appreciated on English shores. The institution to which he has been called is Airedale College, where, next session, he will occupy the chairs of Hebrew and Mathematics. His career at McGill, as undergraduate, graduate and Professor, ensures the thorough performance of all the duties to which his new position may make its claim; and if the same respect, the same good feeling, and the same success, in imparting knowledge, as he here possesses, follow him to his new charge, he can only regard them as the natural rewards of talent, culture and toil. After unusual application throughout the course, he graduated in '64, carrying off the difficult Anne Molson

Medal; took his M. A. in '67; studied Theology at Andover College; and finally proceeded to Germany, where his education was completed. In '76 he was appointed Lecturer in Mathematics at our own University, and has since filled the position in a highly creditable manner. In closing we need but repeat our opening statement, that it affords us much regret to chronicle his departure.

The last meeting of the University Literary Society was an unusually interesting one. The audience was large, the speakers were animated, the excitement was sometimes intense. But if the speakers were animated, they were also few. Six debaters had been expected to take part in the debate. No programme had, however, been prepared; and the opposing parties presented their speakers as the exigencies of the case required. Mr. T. P. Foran was the first who took the floor. He defended the Government from the multitudinous charges which had been made against it. His information was so full, his politeness so pleasing, and his eloquence so attractive, that the lapse of time was not noticed; and, though the speakers were expected to speak for fifteen minutes only Mr. Foran had been talking for about an hour and a half before he abandoned the floor. He was followed by Mr. C. P. Davidson, who made many and grievous charges against the Government; whose speech was almost as long as Mr. Foran's, and who, notwithstanding the force of his eloquence, never for a moment forgot that, though he was a debater, he was also a gentleman. If parliamentary speakers were always as polite, and parliamentary speeches always as able, as those to which the members of the University Literary Society had the pleasure of listening last Friday evening, politics would be an intellectual arena where the gladiators would be men of refinement and culture; where the conflict of minds would be characterized by kindness and courtesy; where the most sensitive mind could find no cause for offence; and where the highest intellects would not only love to combat, but feel some satisfaction at the laurels they had won. Never, perhaps, did the members of this Society listen to an able debate than the one to which they listened last Friday evening. When Mr. Davidson closed his speech the hour was so late that a motion to adjourn was carried almost unanimously. Next Friday evening the same debate will be continued, when it is expected that the vote will be taken and the discussion closed.