

ocean pacing up and down his narrow beaches, the murmuring winds and the slow throbbing earth herself sang together a song of prophecy. A song whose burden was "soon shall be seen in the earth a mystery; a mystery." Life, was that prophecy's fulfilment; life before which in either manifestation, plant or animal, every thoughtful person must stand in awe, feeling it to be the expressed thought of God. To the naturalist life is a vast hollow valley, with gently sloping sides; upon the utmost verge of one are stationed the highest forms of plants, their next in kin in the rank below. On the corresponding height, preëminent over all created things, stands man, with the brute creation ranged rank on rank, adown the slope; these two series descend until they meet in the valley, where the most careful investigation discloses no change of level; there lies a debatable territory; a sort of no man's land—the Borderland in Biology.

Just here the train drew up at a small town, the name of which I've forgotten, and as the guard opened the door, my fellow traveller bade me good-bye, and arranging his straps on his shoulder, he picked up his basket, and I last saw him striding down the platform, quite oblivious of the cries around him of cab! have a cab, sir? cab, ho!

I. C.

Contributed.

THE JUNIOR EXPEDITION.

I have learned with deep regret that the governing body of Acadia have decided to abolish that time-honored and most excellent custom—the Junior Expedition. The loyalty of Acadia's sons to their *alma mater* has long been a matter of comment. However far removed from the time and scenes of their student life within her walls, they never cease to hold a deep interest in her welfare, and I am sure that many an alumnus who has himself enjoyed the pleasure and experienced the benefit of the usual expedition made during his college career will regret this backward step on the part of the governors of the institution.

When it was learned last spring through the press that the best laid plans of the then Junior class had miscarried, and their expedition had become an

impossibility, sympathy was felt for them and expressed on all sides, and especially by graduates of earlier years. It was indeed hoped that not only would the Junior class of the next year be more fortunate but that the class of '91 would also be able to redeem their lost privilege before closing their career at Acadia.

I am unaware by what arguments the governing body of the college convinced themselves of the wisdom of abolishing the expedition. They well know that increased importance is year by year being attached to science studies, and that the necessity of teaching and studying the various subjects pertaining thereto in a practical way is universally recognized. The mathematician may work out the most abstruse problems in a cell or Diogenes may philosophize in a tub; the linguist may revel among the gods and heroes of ancient days, in the privacy of his inner sanctum but the days of the closet naturalist have long since passed. Those who would learn of nature must seek their knowledge and their inspiration in direct association with her visible forms. Botany must be studied in field and forest, the would-be geologist must visit cliff and cutting and ravine, and the student of mineralogy finds his most profitable lessons among seams and crevices of the rocks themselves.

Other educational institutions are recognizing the importance of natural science studies and of having them taught with the students face to face with the objects studied. Our system of public instruction requires not the teaching of the technicalities of science, but that the pupils in our schools be made acquainted with the plants, animals, rocks and minerals of their respective neighborhoods. The Summer School of Science, which held its first session at Wolfville, owes its success to the fact that its class rooms are in the fields, among the cliffs and by the sea-shore. Others of our colleges have been of late imitating the example of Acadia, and have been sending their students off under charge of their Science professors, to study nature out of doors. It is reserved for the Baptist College at Wolfville, with its one efficient but overworked Science professor, while other institutions show signs of progress, to take a backward step.

The reasons why Acadia should continue these annual expeditions are numerous. She owes it to