

the body, a peculiar bow, a peculiar expressor of the face, a peculiar intonation of the voice. We are better without these peculiarities. A minister should in manner be an educated Christian gentleman, that and nothing more.

Let me strongly urge you to join a literary society, such as, if you are an undergraduate, the Undergraduate's Literary Society. It is not good in developing the complete man to always discuss subjects connected with our special work. We are to be citizens as well as preachers, therefore, talk politics; as educated men and educators, discuss education. Besides, to speak in such debates as you may attend in McGill is the best of practice in speaking. We are apt to fall into a clerical style. This tendency is checked and stopped by speaking from a secular platform. When we preach there is nobody to answer back—at least no one does audibly—and one is apt to fall into a listless manner and argue carelessly. But to know that every sentence is being noted by an opponent gives a carefulness and pungency and naturalness to what you say. Let one who has never been sorry for many a Friday evening spent in No. 1 class-room, strongly advise you, undergraduate or partial student, to "go and do likewise."

In the above remarks I have taken for granted two things, which every educated man is likely to endorse. First, that more good is received from college life than is obtained from the text-books; second, that a minister should be something more than a theological pedant. And if this talk has been one of the better influences to the good end my wish shall be realized.

JAKE.

Every Fortnight.

(Correspondents will please address "Critic, P. O. Box 1290.")

Last fortnight I promised to give one or two of the Pristine Proverbs for Precocious Pupils. As I said I am in ignorance of the author. They were sent to me many years ago by a dear friend, when I myself was a pupil—whether precocious or not I shall leave to the imagination of my readers.

I.

"Observe you plumed bird fine!
"To effect its captivation,
"Deposit particles sabine
"Upon its termination."

II.

"Cryptogamous concretions never grow
"On mineral fragments that decline repose."

III.

"Decorations of the golden grain
"Are set to allure the aged fowl in vain."

IV.

"Pecuniary agencies have force
"To stimulate to speed the female horse."

V.

"The earliest winged sponger soonest sees
"And first appropriates the annelid's."

VI.

"Bear not to you famed city upon Tyne
"The carbonaceous products of the mine."

VII.

"It is permitted to the feline race
"To contemplate even a royal face."

The following version of "Put a beggar on horse-back and he'll ride to the devil" is, I think, the best of the lot.

VIII.

"The mendicant once from his indigence freed
"And mounted aloft on a generous steed,
"Down the precipice soon will infallibly go,
"And conclude his career in the regions below."

The first of the above reminds me of the time when my elder brother kindly volunteered to teach me how to catch birds. His plan however never seemed to work satisfactorily, and the coveted bipeds, fortunately for themselves, remained at large. I forget what the regular version of the third proverb is. Perhaps some one will kindly tell me.

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The following which is a fair specimen of the length to which bad punning can be carried, is selected at random from a mountainous pile of communications received in connection with Mentor's little *lapsus plume*. My all-wise monitor will perceive that I have already broken my promise and *relapsed* into the use of Latin. This is the letter:—

DEAR CRITIC,

That rash youth, Mentor, having, if you will permit the expression, taken a back seat, having I might say *receded* himself, it behoves one to be careful. But I only want to tell you that after a thoughtful study of his legend, I have come to the conclusion that it is the result of a nightmare, caused perhaps by a fit of indigestion, and like it is unexplainable. I make nothing of it. The persons with whom I have conversed give it up, so "Mentor" should note the parallel, and pay no more visits to secluded monasteries. He should eschew the "medieval practices" of palming off obscurity as hidden genius. His precipitate criticism of your orthography reminds one of the hasty conduct of the estimable

"Miss Biddy Baxter

"Who refused the captain before her ax't' her."
Please forgive him if he says he never *meant* ter, and promises not to do it again.

TOR-MENTOR.

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Correspondents will be good enough to remember that this column is not meant as a receptacle for bad puns.

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An esteemed contributor who signs herself "Iduna" sends me the following artistically-expressed thought: "Whatever study you undertake do not look upon it in a superficial manner, but learn to search out the inner meaning.

The true artist can tell if the amateur has copied only the tints in the surface of the picture, and knows if he has understood the colours which lie underneath. As the study of art teaches us to learn the truth with regard to pictures, so in all our pursuits after knowledge let our aim be to seek and honour the truth."

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It has always seemed a pity to me that so few opportunities exist for intercourse between McGill and Toronto University. The only occasion upon which the undergraduates of the two universities are brought in contact is that of the annual inter-university football match, and then only in a very slight way. I had hoped that when our Athletic Association should have been formed steps would have been taken for the holding of inter-university sports, but it seems that so far the difficulties in the way have been too great