

A new drama, entitled "Against the World," invites our special attention, because it was written by a young Kingstonian who has attended classes in Queen's, Mr. Henri B. Telgmann. Mr. Telgmann has been at work on this play for about four years, and the present form is the result of frequent revision. It was first brought into public notice in the fall of '88, by the Rev. C. J. Cameron, A.M. It was the hope of the author at that time to have the play produced by local amateurs, but those who heard it read decided it was too heavy for non-professionals. It was not till last fall that the indefatigable efforts of Mr. Telgmann himself succeeded in organizing an amateur company to produce the play under his personal supervision. In the first performance Mr. N. Raymond, of the Royal, figured in one of the leading roles, where he found ample room to display his splendid oratorical ability. The play presents many strong situations. From the first the interest of the audience is aroused. The plot is a more than usually intricate one, and demands the close attention of the audience to appreciate its subtle meaning. The fire scene at the end of the second act is a masterpiece of scenic effect. The comedy element throughout, although not a prominent feature, by good acting could be made a very striking part of the play. The conclusion of the last act, where "from virtue's side grim vice is headlong hurled," etc., gives ample room for the display of passionate oratory, and the audience has the satisfaction of seeing the villain foiled, and the rightful lover clasps his long sought love in his arms, for "Honest courage holds its own, aye, even against the world." Although some parts of this play present marked resemblances to other plays that we have seen, yet, on the whole, it is striking for its originality of conception, its unity of action and its freedom from anything that is vulgar or offensive. We congratulate Mr. Telgmann on his first production, and wish that this and his subsequent efforts may receive the appreciation they deserve.

OUR TABLE.

THE *Acta Victoriana*. This journal is the organ of Victoria University, and is now in its fourteenth year. One might, after a perusal, take it to be much older, such good use has it made of the time. We would like to say some graceful things about the *Acta*, but other editors have forestalled us and we dislike monotony. What good others have said we endorse, and add our compliments,—a selfish hope that whether from Cobourg or Toronto the *Acta* may not fail to visit us.

The *Student*, from the University of Edinburgh, enjoys the great advantage of being a weekly. It thus has a freshness it would not otherwise have. In monthly and bi-monthly journals we often notice a great discrepancy between the date, say of a lecture and the date of its publication. This is avoided in a weekly issue. One feature in the *Student* is worthy of imitation by other journals. We refer to the programme of lectures, concerts, athletic contests, etc., which are to take place

during the current week. The appearance and literary character of the *Student* are above the average.

The very fine portrait of the first Bishop of the recently formed See of Alexandria would of itself be a sufficient reason for drawing attention to the November number of the *Owl*. The Right Reverend Alexander Macdonell, Bishop of Alexandria, is a Scotchman and a good looking one. We like the "get up" of the *Owl*. It is distinctly a College paper. The literary contributions are all of a high order and all from students. This is as it should be. The editorials are well written. One, on a comparison of obligatory and optional courses in a University is a good example of the old game with the straw man. After all we are inclined to remain by our former convictions, that a University which does not offer to its students the option of several good courses does not meet the need of the present day, and can scarcely be classed with the "higher education" institutions. It is a pity College papers must give so much attention to football. We all are guilty. Our friend from Ottawa always brings a fund of humour and will always be welcome.

The *Sanctum* is much brighter for its presence, and the exchange Editor rejoices that the Thanksgiving number of the *Focus* came so opportunely to hand. Day after day we had been racking our brains to think of something new to say where nothing new was to be said, and we were just about giving up in despair when the carrier appeared with the charming little pamphlet now before us. We will say this for the appearance of the *Focus*, it pleases us better than any other exchange we receive. Nor is mere appearance all the *Focus* may boast of. On the first page our eye catches the title "advantages and disadvantages," which proves to be an interesting dissertation upon the vicissitudes of life in which the writer points out plainly the "uses of adversity" as well as the privileges of prosperity. He draws attention to the fact, so oft unseen, that those dispensations which have seemed even curses to men have proved the truest blessings. Temptation, in whatever form, has its work to do—a good one to the honest nature. In substantiation of this point we might quote from Browning:—

"Why comes temptation but for man to meet,
And master, and make crouch beneath his feet,
And so be pedestalled in triumph."

There are several other prose selections worthy of note, and—well it is too bad—but really some of the poetry—there is too much of it anyway—is too far below the standard to have a place in a College paper. The editorial department might evince a greater interest in the leading topics of the day. The scraps of College news are interesting, and the jokes are as a rule good. Altogether the *Focus* is a well edited journal, and has made remarkable progress since the appearance of the first number little more than a year ago.

Xmas greeting:—All our subscribers will please bear in mind that all subscriptions *must* be paid in by the end of January, 1891.

See life of Prof. Ferguson on page 37, JOURNAL No. 3.