

A Twilight Reverie.

The sun has sunk behind the mountain. From the East come the evening mists, like hooded friars, followed by the shades of night, draped in sable garments, — a funeral train following the departed day to its grave in the great cemetery of the past. Slowly and silently they glide over sea, river and valley, and on to the distant hills, till their dark flowing weeds hide the landscape from view.

The day is past. This morning it lay in the immeasurable future—"a thing of possibilities and probabilities." Its probabilities have been tested; its possibilities became the realities of the present, and are now relegated to the infinite past; its spirit lives in its influence, indefinitely powerful in shaping and directing the coming future.

In all the organic world Life and Death are reciprocally conditional, following one another in a succession of ever-repeated alternations. The decayed peat-moss of last year supports the living moss of this year, holding its rootlets and giving it nourishment. So in the phenomena of time, the actualities of the "living present" and the undefined possibilities of the future all rest upon the "dead past," sending their ramifying roots through all its vast duration, and thence deriving their direction and their power.

The future ever holds the Ideal; our actions are strivings to reduce that Ideal to the Real of the present; and the record of those strivings, which, whether successful or futile, are never without effect, is History. Hopeful youth lives in that ideal land of the future with its charming landscapes and its golden mists; contemplative old age, in the diversified scenery, the sunshine and shadows of the past; vigorous manhood must *act* in the present—that ever-shifting boundary between two eternities. Across that line ever hurries in jostling march a strange, weird time-pagant, which to us seems irregular and confused, but in which the Infinite Intelligence sees order and purpose.

SIGMA.

The addition of an extra page affords us an opportunity of recording the novel discussion that took place in the Athenæum on Friday evening, the 14th inst. The Athenæum resolved itself into the House of Assembly, and debated the "Bill for the Abolition of the Legislative Council," brought in by the Government. The question being a live one, there was a warm contest, and it was difficult sometimes to decide which party would ultimately carry off the palm of victory. *After four hours discussion* the Bill passed the House by a majority of six votes. Applause greeted each of the speakers from their respective sides and many sharp hits and repartees were indulged in. The Provincial Secretary and Premier, Mr. E. A. Corey, opened the discussion and he was followed by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. W. H. Moore. The other speakers on the government side were Messrs. Bradshaw, Cook, Powell, Rogers, Ross, Troop, Williams and Whitman; on the Opposition Messrs. Cain, Calhoun, I. W. Corey, Dodge, Hutchinson, Kelly, Longley and Shaffner. The Speaker's chair was filled by Mr. F. H. Schofield. During the evening's session good order prevailed, and there is no doubt that the novelty of the occasion made it enjoyable to every one. There was a marked difference between this debate and the ordinary Athenæum discussion. We have little doubt that if it is tried again the experiment will be equally, if not more successful.

The lecture announced for April 28th, by Rev. Mr. Kierstead, will be postponed until May 5th. A note from Senator Boyd informs us that on account of poor health he will be unable to lecture for us this year. We regret to hear of Mr. Boyd's inability and received the announcement with disappointment.

A new piano has been procured for the Assembly Hall. The puffing and straining usually attended with moving pianos will not now be required.

M. B. Shaw, class '85, has left College and takes a school at Annapolis.