

and it was to this accidental discovery that for a long time the revival of the study of Roman jurisprudence was attributed. Amalfi was deprived of this credit, however, by the discovery that the study of Roman jurisprudence had revived in Europe before the date of her capture by the Pisans, and that Roman law itself was so far from needing a revival that it had never actually died in Europe. Amalfi has been deprived of the glory of these two discoveries, but she cannot be deprived of the notoriety which they acquired for her.

: o :  
XMAS.

THE CHRISTMAS EXAMINATIONS are almost upon us. It is well to remind Freshmen, who are apt to be over-confident, that these ordeals always reap a gigantic harvest on the wrong side. Professors are not only an evil, but an inevitable one—born oppressors, to be met with fear and trembling, and bound to exact their tale of bricks with the smallest allowance of straw. We are their natural slaves. They set our tasks; judge us after their own standards; condemn with heartless frigidity; and sometimes wash their hands of us after a meagre SUP. Their principal diet is raw Freshmen, and the rawer these may be, the more likely they are to fall victims. Our advice is, therefore, under the circumstances as necessary as it is free:—"Swot! Swot! Swot!" We have no fear that the class will fail to catch our meaning, because the first thing a student learns at College is its slang, especially if he be a Theolog. Dip a towel in cold water, wind it round your head, wheel your softest chair to the table, and swot. Use no cribs if you can help it, because an assisted memory is always treacherous; but make a point, if you refer to notes at all, of using your own. If you have none, set to work as fast as possible, and grind them out by unremitting toil. There are quicksands beneath your feet, from which only the steadiest labour can save you, but if you let the moments slip away, you will pay for your idleness by sinking so deep that nothing you can do in the future will give you an equal chance. Then how vainly you will tear your locks and call upon your gods which were potent to please; but their arms have been broken, their eyes are chipped, their noses are flattened, and their ears exist no more on the sides of their stony heads. You cannot pass an examination by studious attention to "Daniel Deronda" or "Green Pastures;" games of chance avail not with the gowned avenger; sleepy days will be regretted through sleepless nights. "Vanity of vanities! all is a dream but the waking."

D.

OUR PHILOSOPHER.

A reporter who would characterize a speech which is neither very long nor very short as anything but "lengthy," would be a curiosity in journalistic circles. Can't the reporters give this word a rest? Can "the devoaring element" never be left out of the report of a great conflagration? Can "the cup that cheers but not inebriates" not be left where Cowper left it? When will a reporter arise who can write a report without borrowing from the poets or plagiarising from his brother reporters? When will we no longer hear a stanza called a verse? Verse, etymologically, means the point at which the eye turns from the end of one line to the beginning of the next, and a needless equivocation is created in the language by making "verse" and "stanza" interchangeable terms. The phrases "with regard to," "with reference to," "with respect to," "with relation to," are now so common that their use should be avoided as much as possible by speakers who aim at elegance of diction. The application of the word "party" to a single person is, beyond all question, the most abominable vulgarism in the English language. A man who says that he went with a party to a party may mean that he went with ten men, with ten women, with a mixed company of men and women, with one man, with one woman, or only with a dog. The word "party" is properly applied to a number of persons; a human being is much more properly called an individual or a person than a party. A man's companion is insulted by being called a party, for if he keeps the company he should, he should call his companion, if not a lady or a gentleman, at least an individual or a person.

: o :  
HOCKEY.

Our short-lived foot-ball season is over. The grounds are having their rest after the hard work they have gone through this autumn. No longer does the rising cheer greet a pretty goal or a gallant run-in. The effect on the undergraduate mind is very evident. "Exams," "grinding," and, alas fatal word, "sups," are the utterances of a gloomy crowd who hang about the hall, reading for the hundredth time the stale faculty notices. What to do, is the general question among those who are not the hard workers. Walks? no thank you, not for Jo! Glee club? Defunct! And so on, till the dispirited undergraduate turns to his books, and in sheer despair grinds for exam. There is no hope of anything till after the 21st. And then,—the hall will have its vacation; the bell will no longer peal beneath the unerring rubber; and Hamilton will not know himself till the plaguery joys of his life come back. And when they do return to find Montreal in her winter suit, the same complaint will be made,—there is nothing to do. Tobogganing at College is an impossibility. Snow-shoeing a magnificent failure, and hockey,—what is the thing like? How many of those who come from the country have ever heard of t, to say nothing of playing? Yet hockey at McGill is a recognized game, and the fact that the club last