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UPPER CANADA COLLEGE, APRIL 1, 1872.

WHOLE NO. 14.

The College Times.

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THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE COLLEGE.

Since this dignified and talented portion of the College is now so extensive, and is moreover increasing, in numbers at least, we have thought it proper that some portion of the *College Times* be occupied in asserting its rights.

That it is a talented and dignified part of 'his institution, we do not hesitate to assert, though some would no doubt do so, "*haud scio, an recte*," for a proof of its extensiveness we refer the reader to the elaborate and short (?) circular issued by the Principal, and that it is assuming a more important place in the College none can deny.

All can recall with feelings of joy the period when that first step was taken in the right direction, by dividing the third form into two parts, one being the Commercial III. and the other the Classical. To say that such a plan succeeded would be entirely needless—every one knows it—but we may as well mention that, owing to all the more frivolous characters being collected in the Commercial III, no one master could keep them orderly, or avoid them getting into those innumerable rows, which distinguished their career, so that ere long they received the coveted title of being the worst form in the College. This just suited their ideas of what school boys should be, and they made more capital out of that renown than if they had worked themselves half dead. Most of them passed their examination well, and without any trouble—How? was not asked; and found themselves promoted, though, to what form, few of them knew.

Next year, however, found the Fourth Form also divided, and one part filled by the promoted Third Commercial.

The term "Commercial" was dispensed with as being too common for them; and, at the request of a leading master, who entertains a very high opinion of both Forms, the names Upper and Lower Modern were applied instead.

We will not state at whose request this was done, but we can assure those Forms that he is a true lover of Commercial Boys; and consequently the correcting of their Latin papers such a true treat, that it is only

owing to his untiring efforts to please the Sixth Form, that he allows the latter body the happy privilege of underlining every word as wrong, and then counting up the number of mistakes.

Although much has been done of late in the way of giving Commerce a better position in the College, yet it should not be assumed that any one leaving the Upper Modern is educated sufficiently to enter into business. Yet such is done. Nothing higher is thought requisite, and no further can the Modern Student go in the College. But stop! Surely we are wrong in this assertion! For some unaccountable reason, we have forgotten that there are in the Fifth Form a few members of the Commercial Branch of the College, "*honestissimi viri*" too, who have been allowed to dispense with all other studies than those considered really necessary to fit them for their future pursuits. Alluding to these, we cannot help noticing a remark of one of the potentates a few days ago. We allude to no less a personage than the Principal, who, having requested the members of that Department to remain behind a few moments, wittily remarked that the "gentlemen"—referring to the Classical portion—of the Fifth might move on.

But it is not the Chief alone who thus makes the Commercial Students the object of his slander, but many of the minor deities, probably from the example of him whom they revere, indulge in the same little innocent amusement. It seems to us that, when reading the "Life of Lucian" (we have read the translation), they have become charmed with the words of the daughter of learning, and expect no doubt to receive the many good things promised to all who follow her. One of the gifts they already possess. Her worshippers were to be clothed in a robe similar to that worn by herself. They see this dress in those beautiful gowns which decorate the illustrious (?) frames of their all. These alone is it the exclusive right of the learned to wear, and truly they deserve them; for in the youth of our Masters "fagging" was attended with many difficulties unknown to the present day, chief among which was the scarcity of cribs to the hard Greek and Latin authors, the Choruses of Sophocles, especially, being almost unintelligible to those deprived of that boon—a translation.

How slavish indeed must have been the toil of our "Magistri," (we would impress upon the mind of our readers, as it has been stamped on ours, that the derivation of this word is "Magis" more, and that "Master" has nothing to do with "Minister" from "Mimus" less) one of whom assures us, that he worked for hours at the first chorus of "Oedipus Rex;" wearing away his substance over the leaves of a Laddell & Scott Lexicon, where no doubt huge bits of thumb might afterwards have been discovered; but with all its difficulties, he mastered it—yes, sir, he did.

But to return to the question of the robes, the coveted gift of learning. As these gowns, gained by so much drill and fatigue, only raise the wearers to the rank of "tailors of this establishment," how much more, we ask, would they require to "fag" in order to gain the position hoped for by the aspiring members of the Upper Modern.

The question becomes one of proportion, the solution of which we will leave to the first Mathematical, whose head will doubtless be more level, when the "notice for tender" has had the effect of infusing more fresh air into the suffocating room. If it be so, then

that the gowns only raise the wearers to that rank, and "which of these things can you disprove O Luminaries" (one of Iliad's works), why tamper with the choice of those who have sought to leap over such primary rounds of the ladder, and become sub-supernumeraries at the outset.

We decidedly think that the Commercial Department is one which ought to be sustained, and in its defence we have "timidly and in a few words" (Cicero or some other Greek author. However, it is of no account who, since we in the Commercial line are not expected to know the names of any Greek writers, and, if wrong, are pardonable) written this article.

If, however, we may not have treated the subject as it should be treated, or if, at any time, we have got on the wrong side of the question, the arguments still hold; for we need only follow the example of the mistaken lawyer, and say, "Gentlemen, these are the fallacious arguments of the other side."

C. O. D.

THE MARKING SYSTEM.

There is a general opinion prevailing that the "Marking System," needs reform if not an entire overthrow. The advantages which it brings are not great enough to counter-balance its defects. This opinion is held not alone among the boys who get the "benefits," but also by the masters who are the "machines" by which the system is carried out. The feeling is the result of every day experience. The object in introducing the system was to afford a means of ascertaining at "convenient" periods the *status* of each boy. Without mentioning any particular case, as many will occur to the boys, if not to the masters, we feel bold to assert that in many cases the object is not realized. In general the proper order of promotion is obtained under the present working of the system, but yet the number of times it fails is large enough to demand some action to be taken to remedy these defects. The objections are not to the system itself, but its working is ponderous and easily abused. Much time is lost at the beginning and end of each hour. The many divisions into which the duties of each day are divided are a necessary part of the system; these, we think, might be lessened with advantage to the boys, though not to the system. When a boy has been absent, his return often causes an unfairness to the others, and many a dispute. Under the present system there seems no help for it. Amongst the masters no less than three different ways are followed to their endeavours to interpret the meaning of this part of the law. Each solemnly declaring, if his plan is objected to, that because the other masters do wrong that is no reason why he should. As this is intended for the consideration of the masters and boys, who know the working of the system, there is no need of mentioning circumstances to which we allude.

So defective and unfair is the rule with respect to resuming and losing places, that a modification of it is found necessary in the higher forms, and amongst the boys of the lower forms. This rule, then, which is supposed to be a general one, is applied only to those to whom it is of little moment whether there is a rule or not.

The emulation for "places," caused thus by incidental—though not necessarily so—is urged in behalf of the system; but we think that the masters