

hints, even although the rules are stated with a simplicity and clearness seldom found in textbooks, and although the hints are given in a pleasing and forcible manner, are not nearly adequate for those who earnestly desire to become writers or speakers. Something more practical is needed. All that is now given can be acquired, not so easily or pleasantly perhaps, but still acquired from the ordinary textbooks on the subject. What cannot be so gained is fair, painstaking criticism of both written and spoken compositions, and instruction in the management of the voice and the art of gesticulation. These things are of supreme importance to a large number of the students, and many, failing by their own efforts to gain the necessary cultivation, despair of ever doing so, and are tempted to believe that "the orator is born, not made." Something then ought to be done to enlarge the usefulness of the present course, and we trust the authorities will soon see their way to help the students to those advantages of which a great man has spoken in the following words: "Statement, thought, arrangement, however men may struggle against them, have an influence upon them, and public men, however they may dislike it, are forced to admit that, conditions being equal, the man who can state anything best, who can pursue an argument most closely, who can give the richest and most felicitous illustrations, and who can command some kind of beauty of diction, will have the advantage over his contemporaries." Another quotation and we will have done: "Attractiveness of style is part of the instrumentality by which a writer or speaker accomplishes his ends. If a man would convince, he must not disdain the arts by which people can be induced to listen."

We are sorry that it has been thought fit not to organize the Glee Club this year. It is true that last year there was a small financial deficit, but with a little careful management we imagine that this could have been made up and the club successfully carried on. A meeting was called before Christmas to consider the matter at which, we are told, only a few students were present. The reason of this, we think, was the way in which the meeting was called. Notices were posted up in the Arts and Medical buildings, but to our knowledge it was unknown to a great number that any such meeting was to take place. The decision not to continue the club was arrived at, we believe, on the suggestion of the late Secretary who was called upon by the meeting to give his opinion. Our opinion differs from that of the late Secretary. Had it been the Treasurer, who had to make good last year's deficit out of his own pocket, that advised this course, we should not have been surprised. But such a lover of music as the Secretary ought to have been prepared to work with a will to endeavour to keep alive this excellent institution. Perhaps next year some one will be found with sufficient enthusiasm to take the matter in hand, and perhaps we may be even fortunate enough to be able to give some concerts if the club is formed early enough in the autumn. In the meantime we are to have a new song-book. Let us be glad for even this small blessing, and let us wish the committee appointed for this purpose every success in their efforts.

It is pleasing to be able to chronicle the formation of a society which will encourage the study of the Celtic languages and literature. Like the comparatively recent researches into Anglo-Saxon lore, this revival of interest in the Celtic remains

of Britain, will undoubtedly be productive of valuable philosophical and literary results. Mr. John MacLennan, the honorary president, is well-known as a gentleman of great ability, while the president, Rev. Dr. MacNish, has taken much interest in the various Celtic languages, and is certainly the best educated Celt in this country. A gold medallist in classics of Toronto University, in the good old days of Dr. McCaul, when taking a medal "meant something," Dr. MacNish has never ceased to prosecute his studies in Greek and Latin, and in spite of a pardonable predilection for classical literature, still testifies to the vigor and worth of ancient Celtic literature. Various lectures on Ossian and kindred subjects, delivered by him before the Canadian Literary Institute, have been published, and it may be that some day a book on these questions may swell the volume of our native literature. The Celtic Society, though formed in connection with the Presbyterian College, is meant to include all of Celtic descent who wish to join.

Contributions.

THE STUDY OF HISTORY.

Of all the departments of literature, the subject of history is in some respects the most interesting; for it has attractions peculiarly its own. It may be said to contain the essence of all others; for each in some degree enters into its composition. The philosopher will there find abundant materials for his study, for the philosophy of history is a life-study in itself, whether it be reducible to a science or not. He will there find the facts upon which his conclusions are grounded, and by which his speculations may be tested. He will find what his predecessors have done on the same ground, and the results of their labours. He will learn something of the moral government of the Universe, and of the principles which have guided the conduct of men. The scientific man must look to history for a record of the changes which the world of nature has undergone, and of its bypast phenomena. The geologist will there find valuable aid in his suppositions regarding the origin and growth of rocks and fossils, and the crust of the earth. The antiquarian finds it throwing great light on the fragments and relics which constitute his study, and leading him to reliable information regarding these, which their appearance and nature would not of themselves afford. The poet and romancist will there find abundant materials for thought and the cultivation of their arts. The student of biography will find the lives of all kinds of men, the circumstances that led to the formation of their characters, and the influence they exerted on their contemporaries and on posterity. And the student of prophecy will find there the data upon which his surmises regarding the unseen future must be built. He will gather together, as it were, the tangled web of past ages, and looking at their issues, he will have some guide as to what is likely to spring from the events going on around him, and a clue to the movements and changes to which these in turn will give rise. History is thus common ground on which men of all tastes and pursuits can meet; and it presents fields of research which the most indefatigable laborers will almost never overtake, and sources of instruction and delight which can scarcely be exhausted.

It is almost appalling to think of what history is; to think of its boundlessness and the variety of the materials composing it. It would be impossible to write a complete history of the world for a single year, for no building would contain the books that would have to be written: a lifetime would not suffice to write it—a lifetime would not be long enough even to read it. It would be necessary to chronicle, not only the great occurrences which had taken place, but also the countless incidents which these had originated; and in pursuing their endless ramifications the mind would be confused and lost. In such a history nothing would be valueless, for the veriest trifle would throw light on something else; and that again would af-