

# Acadia Athenæum.

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J. O. REDDEN, Windsor, N. S., acts as Secretary and Treasurer for the ACADIA ATHENÆUM until further notice, and will receive all communications.

THE last number of *Dalhousie Gazette* attempts to vindicate the character of its unfortunate "Valedictorian," who by giving the truth such a wide margin, has drawn down upon his "little" head the anathemas of all truthloving persons. The *Gazette* says, "We have been informed that the statement was based upon some remarks made by a recent graduate of Acadia to the effect that no text-book in Greek or Latin composition is regularly used at that college, and that instruction in these branches is pursued orally, and at irregular intervals." Now who that graduate is we are not informed. In some respects, he seems to have a striking resemblance to the "valedictorian." We can, however, inform the *Gazette* that text-books are regularly used in the Freshman and Sophomore years, and that in the Junior year the classical Professor prepares his own exercise. By reference to our Calendar, which is followed to the very letter, notwithstanding the *Gazette* quibble about "Livy in toto," it will be seen, that in

the Freshman year Arnold's Greek, and Harkness' Latin, are used semi-weekly, and in the Sophomore, Arnold is used in both.

Although the *Gazette* admits that the charge was too sweeping, it proceeds by a species of arguing peculiar to itself, to substantiate it, and, First, "The tone of fury and fierce denial with which it has been met "looks" suspicious." For our part we have seen but little "fury and fierceness." The falsehood has been denied; what less could have been expected?

Secondly, they have received information from various sources that classical studies are on the wane at Acadia. They admit that she was once famous as a classical institution, but "a great change has taken place during the past few years."

Now we think this is simply contemptible, although it is an old trick of the *Gazette*, making statements like the above on hear-say evidence. It is certainly beneath the dignity of college graduates to descend to such base means as this, in order to defame another institution of which they are jealous, because it is so far ahead of their Alma-mater. We, at Acadia do not claim perfection. Our Governors and Faculty are sensible of defects in some departments, as for instance that of modern languages, but we are to have that claim filled by a separate professor next year. If the *Gazette* would take our Calendar and show up those real defects, it would earn our thanks. Such would be a more honorable course of action, than to level its false assumptions against a department for which Acadia has always been famous, and in which she is yearly becoming more thorough. The institution in which their most talented professor received his education, and in which he had charge of the classical department for a considerable time.

The third point urged in support of "valedictorian's" charge, is the assertion that "the statements of the Calendar (of Acadia) cannot be taken at their face value." This utterly groundless charge against our Faculty only "needs to be mentioned that it may be despised."

Lastly they mention the "challenge" as proof conclusive that no Greek and

Latin composition is studied at Acadia. This is evidently a *poser* (?) If this branch received its due share of attention at Acadia, her freshmen would never have had the audacity to *challenge* Dalhousie's seniors. Strange logic. Our freshmen knew what they were about, and we imagine guessed pretty nearly the reason why their *challenge* was not excepted. Neither they, nor we, nor the public, believed that the absence of Dalhousie's professors, or the dispersion of her students was the chief reason why it was not accepted. They *knew* that some modification of their "proposal" *could* have been accepted, and when the challenge was sent they expected it *would* have been. The *Gazette* admits that if Acadia's graduating class had sent a challenge at a suitable time, such action would have gone far to refute the charge in question. We may remark that when they defeat our freshmen, it will be time enough to speak of that.

But the "challenge" has been a hard pill for Dalhousie to swallow. The political press has given her a hard time about it. We know they are writing under the Scorpion-whip, which the *Recorder* and other papers so mercilessly applied. We know they feel sore about having to back out so cowardly from the contest, but since they are *down* we shall stand aside until they again succeed in gaining their feet. Valedictorian has, we fear, good reason for avoiding the truth, it is too sacred for him, it would be contaminated by his touch.

THE youthful collegiate institution which holds its six months sessions in the dingy old building, erected by Lord Dalhousie in Halifax would like, if possible, to be considered the only college in Nova Scotia, worthy of the name. Now we cannot object to Dalhousie praising herself, although it would be more scriptural, as the theologians say, to "let another praise thee," provided that *other* could be found, than to be eternally exclaiming, great is Dalhousie of the Presbyterians! But we do object to their descending to base and libellous means in order to advance their own interests to the disparagement of other institutions.

Scarce could a more dastardly, cowardly act have been performed by the lower