

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE.

The Debating Society met last Saturday evening, Mr. W. D. Heenan occupying the chair. The question under consideration was, 'Resolved, That Colonies are a benefit to the motherland.' Mr. Collins, the leader on the affirmative, made a very good speech, showing plainly to his hearers the benefits resulting from the colonies of our motherland. He was followed by Mr. Coty, who, in a few concise and apt sentences, refuted most of his predecessor's arguments, and adduced some strong points in favor of the negative. Mr. Wardell was the next speaker, supporting the affirmative. His ideas of political economy were rather inexact, and hence his arguments were not very conclusive. Mr. Reddin followed him, and in an excellent speech adduced important evidence in favor of the negative. In conclusion, Mr. Collins attacked his opponent's arguments, but without success, as the question was decided in favor of the negative.

The Literary and Debating Societies have resolved to unite their efforts and on next Saturday to hold an open meeting in the College hall. The debate for the evening will be, 'Resolved, That a limited monarchy is the best form of government.' Messrs. Hall and Carson will be the speakers on the affirmative, and Messrs. Coty and Collins will support the negative. Mr. Brunan will be the essayist. The Glee Club and Orchestra will also take part in the evening's entertainment. Everyone is looking forward to a pleasant time, and we are quite certain no one will be disappointed.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

DEAR 'VARSITY,—It is rather late in the Term to be writing my first letter to you, but I console myself with the hope that you believe in the old proverb 'Better late than never.'

The number of Matriculants this year is the largest ever recorded, being no less than 852, while the total number of Residents is 3,178. Matriculation, by the way, is a very different thing in Cambridge from what it is in Toronto, for it consists in merely signing one's name in the University register. The different colleges, however, require entrance examinations, which are sometimes competitive and by no means easy. The most illustrious name to be found on the matriculation list of this Term is that of Prince Edward of Wales. He is an Undergraduate of Trinity College, and his residence there has evoked a page of absurd and very misleading illustrations of the College and the young prince in the *Illustrated London News*. The wide-awake caricaturist *Punch* did not lose the opportunity thus afforded him, but at once produced a corresponding page, with all the absurdities exaggerated into most amusing caricatures.

Dramatic energy among the undergraduates is at present finding several sources of outlet. On Saturday last 'The Footlights' gave an invitation performance, at which *Cox and Box* and Mr. Byron's extravaganza, *Alladin*, were successfully produced. On five days of next week the Amateur Dramatic Club (of which the young Prince is a member) are to give their annual performances. The pieces selected are *Plot and Passion*, a drama in three acts, and *Little Tootlekims*, a comedy in one act. The cast is said to be unusually strong, and the A. D. C. will no doubt sustain its enviable reputation. The performances of these clubs, however, are of quite secondary importance when compared with the absorbing interest that is taken in the Greek play, *The Birds of Aristophanes*, which is to be produced on the last four days of November and the first of December. The well-known name of Prof. Kennedy, who is President of the Committee, is no slight guarantee of success, so far as the merits of the performances are concerned, while a financial success seems already assured by the tremendous rush that took place for seats as soon as the sale of tickets began.

Whether or not an unauthenticated rumor is worth recording is a matter of opinion, but still it may interest you to know it is stated here that Lord Harris intends to take out a team of English gentlemen cricketers to Canada next season. The team will be a strictly amateur one, each member paying his own expenses, and the proceeds of the matches will be devoted to the furtherance of cricket in Canada.

I have already written you a long letter, my dear 'VARSITY, and must postpone the discussion of other matters until next week; so, till then, *au-revoir*.

Ever yours truly,

T. C. S. M.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, NOV. 14th, 1883.

General College Notes.

The University of California has a printing press.

An Athletic Association is being organized at Wabash College.

Harvard has a Hare and Hounds Club with a membership of 125.

The lecture course at Denison University has so far been a great success.

Boston University has the largest conservatory of music in the United States.

The Sophomores of Amherst College have voted to allow the Freshmen to carry canes.

Mrs. A. T. Stewart is building a co-educational college in New York, to cost \$4,000,000.

Matthew Arnold delivered a lecture at Dartmouth College, last week, on the subject of Literature and Science.

The students of Illinois University are much dissatisfied with the authority the Faculty possess over the College paper.

In a recent canoe match, at the University of California, between the Freshies and Sophomores, the latter came out victorious.

The *Illini* regrets the want of a Professor of Elocution, and gives some very good arguments for the necessity of having a chair in this department.

Harvard won the first place in the intercollegiate tennis tournament. Its Freshman class numbers three hundred and seven, the largest that ever entered an American college.

During the past summer a party of King's College students organized a Dramatic Club, and by 'doing' the country towns raised the sum of \$300 for the Endowment Fund.

The *Queen's College Journal* advocates the establishment of a Canadian Intercollegiate Missionary Alliance, similar to the Alliance which met a few weeks ago at Hartford, Conn.

FROM ST. PAUL (MIN.) TO HELENA, M.T., BY N.P.R.

Every morning, a fast express-train leaves the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, on the line of the Northern Pacific Railway for the Pacific Coast, its western terminus being the already important and rapidly-increasing city of Portland, in Oregon Territory. In the most comfortable of Pullman cars, with the accompanying luxuries of an excellent dining car, one is rapidly whirled over the plains, a journey to accomplish which but a few years ago required weeks of tedious travel by bull-train or on horseback.

The first day is spent in crossing the State of Minnesota, through a country already well settled, with neat prosperous-looking farms and occasional towns or villages. Ten o'clock at night finds one in Fargo, the most important town in the Red River valley on the western boundary of the state, dazzlingly bright with electric light, and apparently a handsomely built town of about eight or ten thousand inhabitants. During the night, as the porter informs one (and surely he is an honorable man), we pass through a country which is one vast wheat field as far as the eye can reach (that is, you will kindly observe, by day, not by night)—the region of the mammoth farms of Dakota, for a full description of which you are respectfully requested to hunt up some old numbers of *Scribner's Magazine*.

In the morning we are speeding over the prairie, until about the middle of the afternoon we arrive at a small station from which a branch line is constructed to Jamestown, the probable capital *in futuro* of Dakota, and then continuing on the main line, Bismarck, the present capital, is reached in the evening. Here, on a magnificent bridge, between Bismarck and its rival on the opposite bank, Mandan, the Missouri is crossed, and after that excitement is over one may as well turn in and sleep the sleep of the just—or wicked as the case may be.

The third day out one's powers of 'taking in' marvels are considerably taxed, for the greater part of it is spent in crossing what is known as the Burning Buttes, and Pyramid Park. This marvellous country was called by the Indians the 'Bad Lands,' from the extraordinary difficulty they experienced in traversing them, owing to the eccentricities of its numerous peaks and ravines. The formation appears to be conglomerate; enormous masses in all sorts of fantastic shapes, towers, pillars, peaks and pyramids. The clay strata have been burnt into a hard, brick-like substance by the burning of the underlying beds of lignite, and some of the fires, which are supposed to have been the cause of these extraordinary formations, can still be seen burning as the train whirls on rapidly by them. Little Missouri, a disgracefully dirty and disreputable town in the centre of the Bad Lands, is deserving of notice, as it bears the unenviable reputation of being the hardest 'city' in the west—the rendezvous of all the horse-thieves and desperadoes of the Territories, and the quondam resort of those notorious villains, the James Boys.

Towards evening Glendive is reached, and with it the magnificent stream of the Yellowstone, a tributary of the Missouri. The road skirts its south bank, on high clay cliffs, almost overhanging the river for a number of miles, and, seated on the rear platform of the car, one