

The Acadia Athenæum.

VOL. XIV.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., NOVEMBER, 1887.

No. 1.

THE Acadia Athenæum.

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One Copy per Year, \$1.00. Postage prepaid.

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→* The Sanctum. *←

WE send forth this first issue of the ATHENÆUM from its new sanctum with some hope and much misgiving. After attempting to write our first article we had the nightmare and dreamed that the whole University, with its muddy sills, rested upon our shoulders, and that if we should stumble, the College would go all to pieces, the hill would be upset, the whole country would go to the dogs, and we should be hanged. But we do not believe in dreams, and the incubus of that ghostly midnight has already lost its power to suppress our spirits. Not a whimper shall squirm from our lips; but we just ask our patrons to remember, every time they pick up this paper, that the editors are boys. They will try hard to act like men, and are going to do their best. They intend to speak out as loud as anybody, and are determined that whatever power the ATHENÆUM has shall be for truth and right.

BEFORE another college year opens Acadia's great Jubilee Celebration, with all its people and orations, will have come and gone. But ere that good time shall have passed away the jubilant sons and friends of our noble institution are going to lay at her feet a thank-offering of gold—a sum equal to one thousand dollars for every year of her prosperous existence. “Will the full amount be raised?” we have been asked fifty times, and half-a hundred times have answered, “Why not?” Is it not all needed? Is Acadia not worthy of so much hard money? Have not her friends that much to spare?

She needs five times the proposed money to-day. That hanging rag of debt must be torn off. A fire-proof building for library and museum, and a much larger hall to accommodate the increasing audiences on anniversary days, are needed right away. The space occupied at present by the library and museum is wanted now for more and larger class-rooms, committee-rooms, etc. But the new Hall should be built first. For years old Assembly Hall, with both its galleries, has not been a comfortable place on the public days of June. At such times the rear of the main floor is a scene of men, women and children jammed together, piled up on the settees, standing on the window-sills, making themselves miserable, embarrassing the speakers and disturbing half the audience with their restlessness, while many are turned away disappointed and disgusted from the doors. Then the endowment fund, which is to be the more immediate receptacle of this offering, needs to be doubled at once.

And Acadia is *worthy* of all the efficiency that money can give her. The people are beginning to see that she is worthy of their fullest patronage. Without the great financial inducements of liberal bursaries and exhibitions, she is drawing to her halls