

the scholarly editor of the *Messenger & Visitor*, in commenting on the improved appearance of the ATHENÆUM, has special force. "Everything that is not of the best only misrepresents Acadia." To make the ATHENÆUM still further merit the good opinion of its friends, and worthy of the growing influence of the College, the Faculty should excuse the editors from writing essays during the term; and not only so, but impart interest and variety to the pages of the paper by frequent *contributions themselves*.

And now we bid the sanctum a final adieu. We entered it with many misgivings; we depart feeling that our modest efforts have not been altogether in vain; and if our spirit should linger around it we hope that our successors will pardon the intrusion. To them we commit the destinies of the ATHENÆUM, knowing that they will be faithfully shaped and constantly guarded. The new editors are "good men and true," and our subscribers may expect great things of them. Vale! Vale!

A COMMITTEE appointed by the Board of Governors of the College, with full power to act for that body, decided, after a lengthy discussion, to change the time of opening the College from the first Tuesday in September to the corresponding time in October, and at the same time to discontinue the custom of dismissing the three lower classes on the last week in April. All the classes will, hereafter, remain on the Hill till the Anniversary in June, when they will be dismissed together, to return again in October. This departure has its advantages as well as its disadvantages; and it is a question whether, as far as the best interests of the institution are concerned, the latter do not outweigh the former. Although the question has been freely discussed in a previous number of the ATHENÆUM, yet its importance, and the efforts made to minimize the difficulty connected with it, will warrant some further reference to it here. In approaching the subject the Committee recognized the necessity of maintaining the vacation at its present length, but the problem was, to which end of the recess should the additional month be added so as to secure the best results to all concerned. The considerations that appear to have influenced the Committee in their decisions were: (1)—The suspension of College work in May is believed to

have a damaging effect upon the classes in the Academy. (2)—The opening of the College in October would give the President and Professors an entire month's rest from denominational as well as educational work between the closing of the Convention and the opening of the College. (3)—The small representation of students at the Anniversary tends to give strangers erroneous impressions with regard to the strength of the institution. Admitting that these reasons are not without force, let us inquire, with all modesty, however, whether others of perhaps greater weight may not be urged on the opposite side. (1.) If the closing of the College in May operates against the interests of the Academy, is that a sufficient reason for discontinuing the custom, when it has been found to be a positive advantage to the students of the College? While the interests of the College and the Academy are closely connected, still the College students will hardly feel like submitting to inconvenience and financial loss, merely to enable the teachers of the Academy to hold their pupils in hand for a few additional weeks. It is well known that a large number of the College students belong to the teaching profession; and as the school year begins the first of May, unless these young men can secure schools at that time, they will likely look in vain for them in June; and an additional month attached to the end of the vacation will be of little consequence to those who fail to find employment at the beginning of it. Besides, if Acadia refuses to accommodate her students in this particular, other Colleges which present no such hindrances will assuredly reap the advantage. Again, Acadia claims to occupy a position with reference to the teaching profession, quite in advance of her sister Colleges. Does not the decision of the Governors to continue College work till June, thereby ignoring the interests of the student teachers, seem a little inconsistent with Acadia's professed desire to develop and encourage a true educational spirit among the teachers of the Province? Surely, if the Chair of Education is to accomplish its work, student-teachers should not be discouraged from coming to our College by the inconveniences alluded to. (2.) While it is readily granted that our Professors have their time and strength unreasonably taxed by denominational as well as College work, especially when it is remembered that the denomination accepts this labor for a merely nominal recompense, still we are inclined to