

of students are given to the vice of drinking "whiskeys straight," and we imagine that many indulge in boasting about how much they can imbibe who seldom or never taste a drop. This large talk may have imposed somewhat upon the writer of the contribution and led him to think the state of affairs much worse than it actually is. In German universities beer drinking is a general custom, and although the beer is remarkably weak and in comparison with whiskey almost harmless, we presume that cases of drunkenness do occur occasionally. But such scenes as that described in the article on "Student Life in Germany" we believe occur but rarely. Excess, as far as it is to be measured by immediate effects, is the exception not the rule. At the same time too, it must be remembered that this custom of drinking beer together possesses many advantages of a social character. Amongst McGill students we are glad to say that comparatively little intemperance exists as far as we are aware.

The tectotal question is one which we feel bound to abstain from discussing, considering it as we do to belong to the class of excluded subjects in which are also included religious and political disputes, and the highly interesting but exceedingly treacherous theme of women's rights, but at the same time we may express a hope that the remarks in the contribution referred to will be read and seriously examined and that they may have the effect of lessening still further what little intemperance at present exists amongst us.

THE LATE CHANCELLOR DAY.

It was with the deepest feeling of regret that we heard of the rather sudden death of our respected Chancellor in London, England, on the 31th ult. The honorable gentleman had not been in the best of health for some time past and had gone to Europe on that account, but still his death was quite unexpected and the announcement caused quite a shock not only in Montreal but throughout the whole Dominion. Judge Day had long been regarded as one of our most eminent citizens and was very generally esteemed in Canada and in the Old Country where he was born. The late Chancellor first made his mark in political life. He entered parliament at the Union in 1841 as member for the County of Ottawa, and was called with Sullivan, Draper, Baldwin and others to the Executive Council by the Governor-General, Lord Sydenham. He was made Solicitor-General for Lower Canada, but he held office through only one session, after which he retired from public life to accept a seat on the judicial bench. While a member of the administration Mr. Day introduced an important measure to make provision for the establishment and maintenance of common schools throughout the Province. Among other things, it provided an annual sum of \$200,000 for the establishment of elementary schools in Upper and Lower Canada. Under the provisions of this Act elementary schools were soon in operation all over the Province, and although the measure was not free from objectionable features, on the whole it proved a national blessing. Judge Day continued to discharge the duties of a judge of the Superior Court until his superannuation in 1864. In 1857 he was appointed with two other judges a Commissioner for the codification of the laws of Lower Canada. His work extended from 1859 to 1864, and his labours in connection therewith will ever be borne in grateful remembrance. But it was as Chancellor of this University that Judge Day was best known to us. He was appointed to the office immediately after his re-

tiring from the bench and he continued to labour for the advancement of education and the welfare of the University down to the time of his death. He was also President of the Royal Institution. During the whole time that he was connected with the College Chancellor Day took the deepest interest in its affairs, and the loss which the University has sustained in his death will not easily be repaired.

Earth has no scene, however bright and fair,
Tho' golden floods and beauteous skies are there,
Unhallowed by the magic of the past,
With power its image in the heart to cast.
The sweetest flowers their crimson leaves may throw,
Unblest, unnoted, to the radiant glow
Of eastern suns; the purest stream may glide,
Bright foliage twining o'er its silver tide,
Through vales of perfume, circling circles of light
Unloved, unhonored, if no spell be cast
Upon those flowers, that stream, by love or glory;
But bring the rich memorials of the past,
The hallowed legacy of ancient story,
And all is fair and beautiful, and bright.

Montreal, 1829.

W. F. HAWLEY.

Contributions.

WHISKEY STRAIGHT.

A very interesting article has been lately contributed to the *McGill Gazette* giving an account of Student Life in Germany. A noticeable feature of the article is the amount of space which the writer occupies in describing the drinking habits of our German brothers. In a country which has attained to a world-wide reputation in all matters pertaining to education, a country which has produced some of the greatest thinkers and philosophers of the last two centuries, and which is made the "finishing off" school for students of every nationality, it seems strange and inconsistent to find such prominence given to habits that, to say the least, are coarse and unmanly. It is another illustration of the proverb, "extremes meet." If the writer referred to, has given us anything like a true picture of student life in Germany, then we are forced to the conclusion that higher education there has failed to lift its followers above the low plane of animalism and brutality.

It is an inexplicable anomaly that those endowed with a liberal education and mental culture should be found indulging in a practice so far removed from everything that savours of refinement and strength of character. Leaving the element of religion out of the question, and treating it on social and moral grounds only, one is surely justified in expecting that the influence of university life would correct and check such low tastes and put something better in their place.

The universities of Canada and the United States present the same remarkable phenomenon. It cannot be denied, that there are those amongst us who would think themselves greatly lacking in a sort of manliness if they could not distinguish themselves by taking their "whiskey straight." They would feel more ashamed of failing in this than of coming short at an examination. Most jealously do they guard their reputation for wine-bibbing and whiskey guzzling. Why this is the case we cannot tell. The reason may be that it is the shortest road to a notoriety which some crave, even at the expense of their well-being, physical and moral. For it is easy to distinguish one's self in this line. Success here demands no careful preparation, no laborious work, no exhaustive and persistent toil. The possession of intellect is no condition for its successful prosecution. He who is a dunce in class-room and an idler in the study can here find a wide field for the display of his powers, a field in which he may become a conspicuous object. This is the motive, we presume, which actuates many in making such unseemly spectacles of themselves. Before the appetite has become master, the barbaric love of notice for notice's sake, urges many to make themselves contemptible and loathsome fools.