

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA REVIEW

III.

And what a void is life when memory deserts us—a void as the 'Great Deep' before the 'Uncreated Light'; as the Gulf from which came forth the Earth in all its pristine loveliness and the Waters were heard calling to the Waters above the 'Music of the Spheres.'

IV.

And who can fill the awful void of the mind behind the vacant stare—fill the awful void of the barren mind? Not finite man, but memory Eternal and Unlimited—but the Ghost of Memory cannot be evoked by the Caprice of Pleasure—it only responds to the steady and continuous courtship of Will and Understanding.

V.

And while this trinity of divine gifts cannot be conjured to our aid at once after enduring four weeks of abuse and contempt, on the day of the Vacant Stares we are left to face alone the Nemesis of neglected studies, and the hideous skeletons of 'Idleness' and 'Ill-Will' are grinning derision from their places on the hillock of other pet vices we have sown and cultivated during the past month.

VI.

And is there no protest against this awful isolation that has fallen on us, the day of the Vacant Stares? Oh, yes, the silent witness is evidence for the fact of a 'vain scowl,' 'a pen-jabbed ink bottle,' the sullen mutterings that are but the feeble protests of a nature expiring, as it dimly realizes that the fight is not between the things of the flesh but of the mind and the spirits that were.

VII.

There is the spirit of Grammar that has come forth from the 'aeons' and the streets of confusion in Babylon to know, with voice, sepulchral, what objection they have to 'His Being Here.' Alas, there are but two powers able to reply effectively, a well stored memory which is not, or courage which would rend asunder the green shroud that envelops the tormenting spirit; but there is no courage so rash as to court destruction by the Silent Witness who keepeth 'watch and ward.'