

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE,

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The University Gazette.

We have now issued three numbers of the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE in its present form. We have found that the limited space at our command has not enabled us to do justice to the literary talent which our College possesses, and have been compelled to leave out articles of merit on account of their length. On those subjects which should fill our columns it is impossible for a writer to do himself justice in the space of a page or two of our paper, and most of our articles have been of an ephemeral character and of a somewhat local interest. Accordingly the editors have thought it best to increase the size of the GAZETTE to double its present extent. We hope that in the future our columns will contain articles which will appeal to a larger circle of readers than those who are interested in McGill—and that while doing this it may not lose its distinctively college character. So our January number will contain fourteen pages of reading matter, and here we may mention that we have now a most interesting letter from Germany, and a scientific paper from one of our Science Graduates.

Notes.

In our last issue under the head of Mathematical Physics we made a mistake by putting a mistake into the mouth of the Professor. Hereafter we shall more carefully examine the statements of our reporter.

We are glad to be able to state to our readers that the original idea of making the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE in every sense worthy of the name by having on the editorial staff representative men from the different Faculties, is now realized. Messrs. John D. Cline, B.A., and W. Simpson Walker, represent respectively the Faculties of Medicine and Law. With this accession of talent and influence we have determined to double the size of the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE on the 1st of January.

We understand that the Medical Students of Bishop's College, that seat of concentrated medical learning which is so successfully attaining its object of eclipsing our Alma Mater, are contemplating a footing-dinner. It is to be something *very recherche*. We hear that vast crowds will attend, perchance five or six.

In place of our regular article on sports, we print a sketch by one of the competitors. Our space in this issue is too limited to permit our giving a *resumé* of the games, but that will be done in connection with another subject in the January number. The early snow prevents us having any football news.

We beg to apologize to those of our readers who did not receive their last GAZETTE. Some unaccountable accident prevented it from reaching most of our subscribers. We regret this very much—and as far as we are concerned, can promise that it will never take place again. We will be happy to send the GAZETTE to any of our subscribers who did not receive it, on hearing from them to that effect.

The poem "Ancé Mair Thegether" should have been printed at the opening of the session, but it came to hand too late for the first issue, and was crowded out by the account of the sports in the second issue.

In our next issue will appear the second paper on the "Birds of Montreal and vicinity"; also "My last experiences of resurrections," by W. G. B.

Goldwin Smith's Lectures.

During last month Prof. Goldwin Smith delivered a course of ten lectures on English History to the students, embracing the period from the accession of James the First to the defeat of James Second at the Boyne, and the accession of William of Orange.

He commenced by giving a sketch of the antecedents, religious, political, intellectual, social and military, of the country. After a sketch of the reign of James and an analysis of that weak monarch's character, and of those of his favourites, he detailed the causes of the revolution, giving, in so doing, a most interesting sketch of the principal parties who were to figure in the great political convulsion which commenced in the next reign. Then Charles, Laud, and Strafford were sketched, and Pym and the great leaders of the popular party. The lecturer treated events of the reign as parts of that grand struggle between the King striving to uphold despotism and his subjects earnest in the cause of constitutional liberty. Then after the fruitless struggle in the Parliament, came the history of the Rebellion, from the first fight at Edgehill to the last at Naseby, the execution of the King, and the inception of the Commonwealth, the first really national Republic. Vindicating Cromwell's character from the charge of personal ambition in regard to Charles' death, he described how he governed England, striving ever to restore peace, and to govern on constitutional principles—the two tests we must apply in judging of the character of a man who leads a people from internal war to peace. His death was described in a few graphic words, and then we heard a masterly analysis of his character and policy, which space will not permit us to give, but which was a rare treat to those who heard it. He gave us in a few sentences the results of an internal policy which united Scotland and Ireland to England, reformed the franchise and the criminal law, and gave as much peace to England as could have been expected after the severe struggle; of an ecclesiastical one which strove for toleration and protected the Universities; of a foreign policy which made England more feared and respected than she was before, or has ever been since, by the deeds of the Ironsides and of Blake, and by the moral force of his own mind. The forcible dissolutions of Parliament by Cromwell he justified by the fact that he was responsible to the army for good government, and his parliament were endangering the peace of the country; those by the army, as the acts of a political party in arms. He pointed out Cromwell's power of turning all men to advantage without any regard to their loyalty to himself, and his entire devotion to the interests of the country. He sketched rapidly the history of "those days never to be recalled without a blush—of love, of dwarfish talents and gigantic vices, the paradise of cold hearts and narrow minds, the golden age of the coward, the bigot and the slave; how the nation became a second time weary of the Stuart line, and a second time sought liberty,—not now under a Republic, but under the rule of William."

Our sketch only imperfectly conveys the idea of the extent of learning displayed and the principles laid down by the lecturer. As Dr. Dawson in the University Lecture said, lectures on history are the most useful form of such instruction, for the lecturer can gather up and give in a few words the results of long study and extensive reading.

It would be presumptuous for us to attempt to criticise these lectures; the vast difference between the attainments of the lecturer and our own humble researches into the history of the most interesting period of English History, makes us smile at the very thought. In any case our opinions coincide too closely with his own to allow us to find any fault with them.

His manner is slow and hesitating, but he never requires to change a word, and it seems to a listener that the gaps in his lecture are rather to choose what truth to present of the numbers which throng to his mind, than to search for some sentence to follow the last. We would remark, however, that his habit of slurring over some words in each sentence makes it difficult to follow him, and renders it almost impossible to take notes when names of persons and places are those that are thus treated. Notwithstanding his lack of elocutionary powers, his philosophical treatment of the subject made the lectures most interesting.

The attendance of students was large enough to encourage the authorities in providing next session a course of lectures either from Goldwin Smith, or some other gentleman competent to fill the place, and in time we hope that a professor will be found for the potential Chair of History. The attendance of graduates was quite large, but we would suggest to one or two of them