

# THE PORTFOLIO

"VITA SINE LITERIS MORS EST."

VOL. X.

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, JUNE, 1890.

No 8

## ✧ The Portfolio. ✧

Published monthly by the Students of the Wesleyan Ladies' College, Hamilton, Ontario.

EDITOR IN CHIEF,	Lenah Sutcliffe, '90.
ASSOCIATE EDITORS,	{ Mabel Clark, '90. Eleanore Taylor, '91. May Lawrence.
EXCHANGE EDITORS,	{ Susan Patterson, '91. Edith Gibson.
LOCAL EDITOR,	Janie Hollis.
BUSINESS MANAGER,	May Shaw, '90.

### TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

PER ANNUM, ONE DOLLAR. SINGLE COPIES 10 CENTS.

Address all communications to

The Portfolio, - Hamilton, Ontario.

✧ We invite correspondence and contributions from the Alumnae and former students.

## ✧ In Defencionem. ✧

WHEN, some time ago, I sent to the "Portfolio," at the request of one of the Editors, a short article entitled "The Culture Demanded by Modern Life," I did not dream that it would elicit a response, nor was it my desire that it should do so.

The fact that I did not wish to monopolize too much space made it necessary for me to omit a great deal that might have made my essay plainer, and have placed me in a different position.

If my contribution has made me appear in the light of one whose views are prejudiced and narrow-minded, I am sorry. If those who have done me the honor to read the article think that I would suggest scientific study to the exclusion of all other lines of thought,

then again am I filled with regret; for nothing was further from my mind than that either of the above conclusions should be drawn.

It is customary for each one of us to make a special study of some one subject, and I consider that he who makes the Sciences his special study is immeasurably better prepared to respond to the calls of this active and practical era than he who selects for his special study the Ancient Classics or Modern Languages, although some knowledge of both these is essential to a liberal culture.

The author of "Objections" asks the question, "In proportion to the advancement in every department of education and social life is the practical element greater than in former years?" I answer no, it is not; but that does not alter the fact that this is the most practical era the world has ever seen. The very "advancement" of which my correspondent speaks has made it so. Although there has been marked advancement in nearly every department, yet nothing else has made anything like the progressive strides that Science has made, and just in proportion to the greater progress which Science has made over other subjects is the practical element greater.

My correspondent speaks in a sneering manner of "filthy lucre," yet she cannot but acknowledge that money, if rightly used, is a good boon, and extends one's opportunities for doing good. We cannot examine the lives of such men as Senator Macdonald and Mr. Gooderham without being impressed with the true value of worldly wealth. It is alas, true, that a great many pursue wealth for its own sake alone, but all men are not so selfish. Money is power, and whether it is sought after to meet selfish or unselfish ends, yet we all seem desirous to possess it, and in these times when competition is so keen, unless we are endowed with at least an average share of practical ability we stand