

relation to the Theory of Descent. Dr. Wallace, when in Brazil making observations on the fauna, was struck by the number of butterflies which had, as it were, copied in coloring or mode of flight others of their tribe distasteful to the birds. Connecting this and similar facts with the evidence offered by paleontology, he evolved the theory of the survival of the fittest, and sent the papers containing his discovery to Mr. Charles Darwin, to be read before the Royal Society. Seeing that the conclusions to which he had himself been led by over 20 years' labor had been independently arrived at by another observer, Darwin was induced to hasten the publication of his Origin of Species, being a "Selection from his Manuscripts," as he called it, and this we owe to Wallace above his own contributions to science, the early publication of this great work, the greatest up to its time on biology. The speaker concluded by announcing that Mr. Wallace, now travelling in the United States, would deliver two lectures in the University Convocation Hall on March 10 and 11, under the auspices of the Canadian Institute. The next paper was by Mr. R. A. McArthur, on the Liver Ferment, being a synopsis of work recently undertaken, which goes to prove the absence of any specific hepatic diastase. On the conclusion of this paper the views therein advanced were discussed by the society, led by Mr. G. Acheson, M.D.; Mr. A. B. McCallum, B.A., and Mr. F. T. Shutt, M.A.

The Y. M. C. A. meeting on Thursday evening was conducted by Mr. J. G. Hume. His subject was "Purity," the passage of Scripture, 1 John 3 : 3. After a neat and interesting address, which was listened to by a very fair audience, the discussion was thrown open to the meeting. Several took part, the remarks being brief and pointed.—On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock the ten delegates who represented the association at the Kingston convention reported to a meeting of the members held in the reading-room of the hall. The report was very encouraging.

GENERAL COLLEGE NEWS.

Italy has twenty-one universities.

A dramatic association has been formed at Yale.

Yale, Princeton, Harvard, and Cornell each have a daily paper.

America has 370 universities and colleges, with 65,522 students.

The Yale football team are to receive miniature footballs of gold as trophies.

Co-education was first introduced into the United States at the University of Michigan.

The Inter-collegiate Y. M. C. A. has determined to publish a new paper called the *Intercollegiate*. Mr. Wishard is its editor.

The resolution authorizing Yale College to be hereafter named Yale University, was passed by the Senate at Hartford last Thursday.

Cornell is to have a number of prominent lectures this term on practical business subjects. Mayor Hewitt and Professor Graham Bell are in the list.

Senator Stanford's University in California is to accommodate at first only those who wish to pursue higher courses. It will be open to both sexes.

A. C. Merriam, Professor of Greek at Columbia College, has been chosen as Director of the School of Athens for the year 1887. He will leave for his new position at the close of the present college year.

There are at present four foreign schools for the pursuance of classical studies in Athens. The American school has the largest number of students: seven, representing the colleges of Amherst, Columbia, Michigan, Beloit, Trinity and Yale.

Princeton has laid down rigid requirements for applicants for the degrees Ph. D. and LL.D. They must pass satisfactory entrance and final examinations, they must be Bachelors of Art, and must pursue a special course of study in their department for two years, one year of which period must be in Princeton.

Prof. Wadsworth, of Colby University, has been making experiments with his Geology class to ascertain the practical value of classical studies to a student in assisting him to master the sciences. Members of the class were requested to give the derivation of sci-

entific terms without previous preparation, and, as a result, some statements were made, which, if true, might lead to startling revelations in science; for instance, a Senior, noted for his proficiency in the classics, derived "lepidodendron" from the two Latin words, *lepidus* and *dens*.

The Illinois *College Rambler* for January has the following glee club notes, which represent a case almost identical with our own: "College glee clubs all over the country are complaining of the almost total lack of new college songs. Year after year they have been singing the same songs until the people are almost tired of hearing them. Our glee club, though only five years old, has had such a run of concerts since its beginning, that it is feared the end of the rope is nearly reached. What is needed is not so much new tunes as new verses adapted to the old tunes. There is enough talent among our students, if once awakened, to accomplish some very creditable work in this direction. Let some poetic, patriotic man, who is ambitious withal to become famous, set his brains running to the tune of 'New Jersee,' 'Cochalunk,' or 'Upidee.'"

"Wanted, some one to write poetry for the glee club. Adaptions of old songs for the home concert are especially needed."

LITERARY GENIUS IN YOUTH.

It is almost incredible, when one looks over the records of the past, to find at what early ages some of the world's greatest writers manifested literary genius and performed their most important work. Shakespeare, for example, wrote "Hamlet" when but thirty-six years of age; Thomas Moore wrote poems at fourteen; Bryant's "Thanatopsis" was written before the author had reached the age of twenty; Henry Kirke White published a volume of poems at seventeen; Fitz-Greene Halleck's best verses were penned when the author was between fourteen and seventeen years of age; Dickens produced the "Pickwick Papers" before he was twenty-five; Milton wrote poetry at the age of ten; Bulwer-Lytton, Bayard Taylor, and the poet Keats were successfully writing for the magazines at eighteen; Schiller wrote and published a poem on Moses in his fourteenth year; Southey began to write verses before he was eleven; poems by Chaucer and Leigh Hunt were known and read before the authors were twelve and thirteen years of age; Klopstock began his "Messiah" at seventeen, and thus might be cited a much longer list of illustrations of the mature development of authors at tender ages.—*Brooklyn Magazine*.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and will appear every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the University public and will always seek the highest interests of our University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

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