

in the chain which binds graduates to their Alma Mater; and lastly, though far from least, being carried on entirely by the students, to prove a source of incalculable benefit to said students. To the best of our knowledge the first two missions of our papers are well looked after, in some cases rather too well, but that does not bear upon the matter in hand. As to the last use, in some Colleges the paper and the societies are expected to furnish sufficient practice in essay writing, but whether this is or is not the case, the fluency of pen which only comes of much practice, and the necessity for this practice having a place in an education intended to fit us for practical life, are not things to be overlooked; thus in doing away with part of our publications given to writing of this stamp, we not only throw aside the valuable opportunities for this very exercise, but ignore one of the objects which formed a chief reason for the starting of the papers. There are, we acknowledge, difficulties in the way if we desire to adhere to original intentions; the course of duty rarely does run smooth. It is not easy to get interesting essays, and many editors seem to prefer anything at all rather than an uninteresting one. They do not like to insert articles that are prosaic, battered reproductions of other people's thoughts, or slightly diverse settings of antedeluvian axioms; and they are right, but that is no reason why they should not take a little more trouble in procuring better ones. But to use an axiom ourselves, reprehensible as the action, not the axiom, is, "What man has done, man can do," and as some college editors have succeeded in making their papers interesting without crowding out the literary matter, why, then, it is possible for us and for others to do the same.

The first meeting of the Senior Society after Easter was an interesting one. Miss Morris' speech and Miss Fish's essay were particularly worthy of praise.

EXCHANGES.

THE *Notre Dame Scholastic*, always grave and studious in appearance and in contents, reaches our exchange table regularly each week. In the last of the March numbers the writer of "Literature, its Power and Province," strives to impress upon us the fact that we should not consider all books of a serious character right and proper for perusal because they are serious, and that often they are far more injurious than the worst of the lighter kind known as novels. It seems to us the matter needs no amplification. No class of books or class of anything can be exempted from the statement, that there must of necessity be in that class some that are not good, except of course where the classification is based upon the quality of being good or evil.

THE *School Magazine* for April contains a very good article on the "Origin of Language." The writer clearly sets forth the different current opinions and his own ideas on the subject. A feature of the magazine, novel in periodicals, published in connection with educational institutions, is the publication of examination papers. It must prove a great benefit to the student readers though uninteresting to outsiders.

THE author of "The Maple Leaf," in the *Acta Victoriana* for March, seems to take a very hopeful view of Canada's present condition, notwithstanding the N. P. ravages, the late increase of failures and the general depression throughout the country; but then, it is not to be wondered at, students, as a rule, do not have very much spare time to spend over newspapers. The articles on "Rome in the Days of Tacitus" and the "Crusades," are well written. The *Acta* is fortunate in having such a number of interested correspondents. It is refreshing to see graduates and friends of a college taking such a lively and sustained interest in its welfare.