

be entirely oblivious. Without desiring to give that style of gratuitous advice, which seems to be the prerogative of Sophomores, we wish to say to you, gentlemen of the Freshmen Class, get organized, and as a result you will cultivate a more sociable and friendly feeling among yourselves, which will ultimately develop into that *esprit de corps* which is now perceptibly lacking among you; you will be inspired with self-confidence—where additional confidence is necessary—and thus be able to take your place in other societies; you will feel your individual responsibility and gain experience which will be invaluable to you in the management of the affairs of the college societies, which in a few short years will devolve upon you. *Verbum sat sapienti.*

“CANADA AND OTHER POEMS” is the title of a small collection recently brought out by Mr. J. F. Herbin, B.A., '90. It is published in the form of a neat pamphlet, the press-work being tastefully executed by Mr. J. J. Anslow, of Windsor, N. S. The seven poems therein contained are allied in thought, and we cannot give the dominant note of their sentiment better than by quoting the opening lines of “*Promise*”:

“What fairer sky and lands than these
Promote a subject's weal?
What clime more blessed of liberal earth,
May other days reveal?
What riper age, what fitter time,
To make a nation grow
Can years present to willing men
Or favoring chance bestow?”

It will thus be seen that the prevailing tone is one of broad patriotism, of enthusiastic optimism regarding our country's future. This sentiment is most healthful and in accord with the times. For in spite of political bickering there is a growing faith in the destiny of Canada, a vague presentiment of coming greatness that is given shape and tangibility in these poems. “*Canada*” is the most ambitious and finished of the set, and we conclude with a few of its prophetic lines:

“I dare, when the silver of morn melts into the
paling darkness,
Look for a perfect day, flooded with golden glory.
I dare, when the grain leaves the liberal hand, look on
to the harvest;
Yea, now may I hear on the morn the whirl of the
sickle”

THE Athletic Instructor has intimated his intention of giving a gymnastic exhibition some time during the present month. The object, as we understand it, is to give the public an idea of the system of physical training pursued in the gymnasium. For this purpose, some fifteen students representing the different classes in the college and academy, led by the instructor, will go through the various exercises for which the apparatus provides. This will probably be followed by fancy performances and feats of skill which have been acquired independent of regular instruction. The gymnasium during its brief existence, under the management of Mr. H. Y. Corey, has done much for our young men, and we feel assured that an exhibition of this kind will prove sufficiently interesting to the friends of the institutions as to insure their presence.

UNDER the heading “*NOVAE RES*,” the *Dalhousie Gazette* invites comment on its proposal to have established in the Maritime Provinces “a common basis of collegiate training, one board of examiners, and one set of examination papers.” The benefits of such a course have been so ably set forth by our respected contemporary that we shall confine ourselves, so far as possible, to an examination of their reality and a statement of our own views, as students of Acadia.

It is affirmed that certain of our degree-conferring colleges do not rise to the standard of affording a “true collegiate education;” and, furthermore, that there is a lack of uniformity in the curricula and examination requirements that argues inequality in the value of the degrees granted. With regard to the first, surely a college is known by its fruits. No institution can long continue to do surface work and yet hold its reputation. It must stand or fall, as its results bear the world's test, or show flaws and weakness. Such an evil cures itself. If a college is in such a state that its professors are unprogressive and careless, and there is not *esprit de corps* among the students, it is already on the way to the cemetery, and shows clearly that the reasons for its existence are not very urgent.

Then, is there any sufficient reason why the courses should be uniform? If the number of *electives* be increased so as to cover the demand of the different colleges, the condition will be practically the same