

OUR LOCAL NOTE BOOK.

There are still a few of our subscribers who have not remitted payment. They are requested to do so before the close of this month, as we wish to present a complete financial statement to the Alma Mater Society at its annual meeting in April.

The international lesson scheme committee met in Montreal last month and performed its duties with despatch. Rev. Dr. Worden, of Philadelphia, one of the members, conducted a three days' Sunday school institute in various of the city churches, besides preaching twice on sabbath. Rev. Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, another member, also preached twice, and delivered the final lecture of the course on "Questions of the Day" in the Morrice Hall. The Canadian representatives on this committee are Drs. Macvicar and Potts.

The second regular meeting of the Celtic Society was held on the 28th ultimo, the president, Dr. Macnish, in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. William Greig on "Our Ancestors," and another on "The Manx" by Mr. J. K. Ward (from the Isle of Man). The latter, in answer to a question, said that the whole population of his native isle accepts the doctrines of the Reformation. Mr. McKillop, the blind bard of Megantic, recited several pieces of original poetry. A number of new members were elected, and a letter was read from Professor Blackie, of Edinburgh, the well-known Grecian, poet, philosopher, and orator, who is an honorary member of the Society and has presented to our library a volume from his own pen. Mr. William Drysdale has also replenished the shelves of the Celtic department. It was announced that Professor Campbell has chosen as the Society's motto: Dileas d'ar canain' us dileas d'a cheile,—"Faithful to our language and faithful to one another."

The prizes for public speaking and reading were awarded by the Philosophical and Literary Society on Feb. 22nd. Mr. W. A. McKenzie, B.A., was declared the best public speaker, Mr. J. H. Higgins the best English reader, and Mr. S. Rondeau the best French reader. There was no special competition as in former years. The decision was arrived at after two ballots, in the first of which each member voted for four students whom he considered to have spoken or read uniformly well throughout the session, and the four names gaining the highest number of votes were written on the blackboard. In the second ballot each member voted for only one of the four competitors, with the results already mentioned.

We take the following paragraph from the *Cobourg Ac'a Victoriana* more as a personal compliment than a general "puff," as the writer on the subject referred to is not altogether anonymous:—"The PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE JOURNAL has a very valuable article on 'The Fragrant Weed.' Tobacco has been the theme of much bad writing and windy oratory, and very seldom, nowadays, is anything added to the arguments against its use ;

but the JOURNAL treats the old hackneyed question in a new and common-sense style. The article is fresh, vigorous, and practical." The *Montreal Witness* shows what it thinks of Mr. Dey's views on smoking by reprinting them, duly accredited to our pages.

A pamphlet entitled "A Plea for Popular Instruction in the Evidences of Christianity," by the Rev. James Middlemas, of Elora, has, through the courtesy of the author, been distributed among our students. Mr. Middlemas, while at the outset giving the highest prominence to moral and experimental evidence, is yet strongly persuaded as to the advisability of the people in general gaining a more distinct apprehension of the way in which the facts of the Gospel history are proved in common with other historical facts, and of the way in which objections of various kinds can be met. He suggests that attention should be largely concentrated on the resurrection of Christ as proving the divine authority of his preaching, "because it is a fact on which the light of historical evidence shines more fully than it does on any other in the Gospel history."

The promised volume of lectures on "Questions of the Day" is in the printer's hands.

NEWS OF GRADUATES.

'78.—*On dit*, that a handsome French graduate, renowned in journalistic circles, is about to lead a bride to the altar.

'81.—Rev. G. T. Bayne has accepted the call to East Gloucester, subject to the permission of the Home Mission Board.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

Your committee begs to report that the general condition of the Society during the past session has been satisfactory. Much interest and enthusiasm have been manifested,* and a review of the work accomplished shows that there has been no perceptible retrogression in the methods adopted to promote the mutual improvement of the members, but that, on the contrary, and in many respects, there has been a decided advancement. The constitution, as recently revised, was put into effect at the beginning of the session, and in its main features has all along worked in an admirable manner, especially with regard to that section which provides a uniform distribution of duties among the executive. While there may, perhaps, be one or two minor provisions, the wisdom of which is open to dispute, it is still felt that, take it all in all, the new constitution is an exceedingly valuable document, and that the Society is more than ever indebted to the gentlemen who acted on the committee of revision. Upon comparing the reports of former years with that which your committee now submits, it will be found that, so far, at least, as figures are concerned, the history of the Society has never been more encouraging than during the last six months. The number of names at present on the roll of membership is 59, and of these, 18 were added this year. Ten ordinary meetings have been held with an average attendance of 23; and several special meetings, also, were called for the transaction of business; 34 members were present at

*We deem it prudent to remark that this eulogy applies only to the earlier part of the session. As we have observed once before in these columns, the ordinary meetings of the second term were extremely languid.—ED. P. C. J.