

attitude which he adopted toward all the Ministers which had followed one another in rapid succession, while he was President of the Chamber—and which were obliged to stand or fall according to his will. Gambetta, it seems, was not strong enough at the time to govern himself, but he had full power and determination to prevent any one governing without him. He was however in the end bitterly punished for all. When circumstances at last obliged him to form a Ministry of his own, his grand measure of the *Scrutin de Liste*, which however was a just and necessary one, was defeated and thrown out. The members were afraid of him. With great toil he dragged it through the Lower House by a scant majority of four votes, and lost it utterly in the Upper one. In regard to the charges of loose morality, which have been brought against the great Frenchman, and the disagreeable stories that are told (by his enemies of course) about his private life, most of which however, as Mr. Harrison observes, are not yet proven to be true, we can have little to say. Mr. Harrison says that "a public man has no private life," which is in a certain sense true, though it looks like a dangerous maxim from the lips of one who holds up as a light and example to men the calendar of Humanity. Besides, are we not all such fate-driven mortals on this earth, moulded in body and soul by the necessity of our surroundings—that inevitable necessity which Victor Hugo makes the text of a great and powerful novel. When a man has been shewn only the clean and perfect side of life and yet turns out in the end a reprobate, let us speak ill of him if we will, but when only its loose and irregular types have been thrown about him from his infancy, and yet out of it all, he displays, as Gambetta certainly did, the high and generous impulses of a nature fundamentally noble, it were better for us to be silent about his faults. Gambetta was by his education and surroundings, in the words of Frederick Harrison nothing but a "jovial, unabashed son of Paris." All this will seem but a weak argument to the pure and careful searchers of character; yet let it stand for some slight extenuation. But before we leave him let us repeat what I find eagerly testified in everything that I have read of him and what can be said of so few statesmen of his especially, or any other age or country, that though he was placed in positions in which he had abundant opportunities of making himself wealthy by means often considered quite honest, he never made use of his power to augment his fortune by a single farthing. He died indeed comparatively poor, and all that he left behind him was the proceeds of his share in two great Republican journals. It is said of him also that during his life time, whilst most men looked upon him as immensely rich, he was often in a condition of pecuniary necessity. We are told, too, of his indefatigable industry, of his perpetual endeavour to learn, of the long weary hours he devoted to study and the work of

state, reserving only four for sleep, of how he toiled thus for his country unceasingly with all his might, and as it proved much more than his might, and so shattered his once powerful constitution that a slight wound slew him in the end, as a much greater one could not have done in earlier years of less weary care and better regarded health.

In taking leave of the reader we would recommend him, if he has the different copies of the reviews about him, and has not done so already, to read Mr. Harrison's lecture on Leon Gambetta. He may set on one side the reflections on his religion which are to be found in it, if nothing else, for the ease and beauty of its style. Other articles well worth reading are "Contemporary Life and Thought in France," by Gabriel Monod, in the *Contemporary Review* for February, and another in the same number, written in a very sweet and affectionate tone by one who styles himself Gambetta's Friend and Follower, "M. Gambetta: Positiveness and Christianity," by R. W. Dale, M. A., in the *Contemporary Review* for March, and lastly a rather caustic and skeptical paper by "A German," in the *Fortnightly Review* for February, which will serve as an antidote to all.

A. LAMPMAN.

Rouge et Noir.

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF TRINITY COLLEGE. Contributions and literary matter of all kinds solicited from the Alumni and friends of the University.

All matter intended for publication to be addressed to the Editors, Trinity College.

No notice can be taken of anonymous contributions. All matter to be signed by the author, not necessarily, &c.

Advertisements, subscriptions, and business communications should be directed to H. W. CHURCH, Business Manager.

Terms, post paid—Annual subscription, \$1.00.

TRINITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

TRINITY TERM, 1883.

THE PROVOST is at present in England, where he will remain during the "Long." We hope that he will return with recruited strength.

We are delighted to find that Trinity is holding her own in Cricket. The bowling average this season is remarkably good. See the *resume* in another column.

There seems to be some room for improvement in the arrangement of the Classical Honour Examinations for the third year. As the rule now stands, the men come up both in June and October, for examination on identical subjects. Would it not seem reasonable that if a man can pass in the honour classics, he should be exempted from examination in the simpler subjects of the mere Pass Course? If this were done, all the third year examinations could be concluded in June, and honour men would be relieved from the unpleasant nightmare of stiff examination to come, hanging over them all the summer.