that it is not usual for even graduates to nominate presidents until they have been requested to do so by one or other of the undergraduate parties. We are certainly entitled to have a stronger voice in the nomination of our officers than a graduate who has attended only two or three of our meetings during the year. Nor is it usual for other members of the Society than those forming the general committee to constitute themselves the special advisers of our presidents. But this Mr. Manly very kindly proposes to do. There is an intensity of subjectivity in the tone of this gentleman's letter that is perfectly overwhelming. We commend it to the thoughtful consideration of our fellow undergraduates, with the expectation that they will, when the election comes off, convince Mr. Manly most favorably that our Literary Society is not merely a lower form in the mathematical department of the Toronto ' Collegiate Institute.' I am, Sir, very truly yours, A. STEVENSON.

CANADA'S POLITICAL TRAGEDY.

IN FIVE ACTS.

It is the 17th day of December, 1833; and the parliament buildings of the town of York is a scene of confusion. The Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada is in session ; the Speaker in the chair. Soon after mid-day a lengthened procession approaches. The gallery is crowded, a few are admitted below the bar, and yet the lobbies outside are thronged. Anxiety and determination is read in the countenance of every visitor. From gallery and floor all eyes are turned upon one man who is waiting at the bar. William Lvon Mackenzie, the thrice rejected of that Assembly, has been escorted to the House by the yeomanry of York County, to take the seat to which they have again unanimously elected him.

They have a petition there, too, praying that their choice be respected. They anxiously await its presentation, and when Mr. McNab urges that it be not so much as received, their chagrin and indignation found vent in a hiss from the gallery. 'Clear the House of Strangers,' is the cry. The gallery is partly emptied; the Sergeant-at-Arms, in attempting to eject Mr. Mackenzie by force, is obstructed by a brawny Highlander, the throng in the lobby at the same time making a rush for the open door. They fail to get entrance, and the door is bolted, blocked, and barricaded. The Sergeant now reports that Mr. Mackenzie claims to remain as a member. The Speaker urges the commissioners to refuse to administer the oath, and then decides Mr. Mackenzie is a stranger because he has not taken the oath.

Such was the principal scene of the first act of the tragedy so soon to follow. Let us pause to look upon the actors.

Elected as one of the representatives of the County of York, in 1828, Mr. Mackenzie at once became an active member, and proved himself an able, energetic, and prudent statesman. He proposed many reforms in the Post Office and Banking Systems of the Province; and no question of public moment but received his earnest attention.

But though his reforms were strongly supported by the majority of the Assembly, they availed little in the face of Legislative and Executive Councils, responsible only to the Governor, and a Governor responsible to a Colonial Secretary, some thousand miles away.

In the session of 1829, a direct vote of censure on the advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor was adopted by thirty-seven to one. Next session that single supporter had deserted them. Yet Sir John Colborne quietly ignored their wishes, and received the address with the insolent reply,' I return you my thanks for your address.'

William Lyon Mackenzie and his supporters began with no personal enmity, with no party feeling. They did not accept the principle of irresponsible government it is true; but they contemplated no hasty move for its abolition. That question they left to time, and devoted themselves to immediate and practical Reforms. And it was only when they saw such legislation systematically disregarded, the Assembly of the people's representatives treated as a harmless farce, when the external embellishments that disguised it were brushed away, and the so-called government stood out in the hideous proportions of the Family Compact, that they set themselves to overturn this apparently insuperable obstacle of their country's progress.

Mr Mackenzie was again returned to the Assembly which met in 1831, though he had to encounter all the force of that opposition which the Lieutenant-Governor and his advisers exerted with such effect in other constituencies. If anyone is disposed to ask how it was possible for the Government to exert such undue influence, let him recollect that the entire patronage was in the hands of men irresponsible to the people. By far the greater part of the revenue was thus controlled. Peter Robinson was then in charge of the unlimited Crown Lands, and, as a member of the Executive Council, held the position of Auditor of of things, the Assembly which now met contained a majority favorable His, 'Anatomic Menschlidies Embroynen II;' 'Royal Irish Academy to the Executive. Many of the members were office holders, liable to Proceedings and Theorem 11;' 'Royal Irish Academy Proceedings and Theorem 11;' 'Royal Irish Ac to the Executive. Many of the members were office holders, liable to dismissal at the pleasure of this same Executive. There were Sheriffs' umbus,' (U.S. Coast Survey, App. 18-19); Groshaus,' Neues Gesetz,

County Registrars, Collectors of Customs, Postmasters, etc. These to form the free and independent representatives of the people. By moving to enquire into this anomalous state of representation; by calling for returns respecting Pensions and similar expenditures, and in other ways, Mr. Mackenzie proved obnoxious to the official party. An attempt to get rid of him this session failed. In the next he was charged with publishing a libel on the House, given a single hour to plead in defence, and then expelled. Enthusiastically re-elected by his However just constituents, he again appeared to be again expelled. the first expulsion might have been, the second, in the opinion of every candid observer, and in the opinion expressed subsequently by the Colonial Office, was equally a violation of parliamentary procedure and common justice.

Mackenzie, at the period with which we began, had just returned from England, whither he had carried a petition signed by 24,500 of his countrymen, setting forth their grievances, and appealing for relief. He had met with disappointments, but on the whole his mission was most successful. He procured the dismissal of Attorney-General Hereiter and State and Stat Hagerman, and Solicitor-General Boulton (though Lord Stanley's accession to the Colonial Office resulted in the Solicitor's re-appointment), and so had incurred the official displeasure which prompted his violent expulsion for the fourth time.

The second act, the act which once performed, made the com-The Cab. pletion of the tragedy inevitable, has its scene in England. inet of Great Britain is in Council, weighty questions of state have been discussed, it is now almost midnight, and the Colonial Secretary propounds,—'Whom shall we send as Lieutenant-Governor to Upper Canada?' A member replies,—I don't think we can do better than send out young Head.' That night a messenger was dispatched from the Colonial Office to Francia Part IV. Aroused from his sleep, the Colonial Office to Francis Bond Head. Aroused from his sleep he awoke to 'enforced greatness,' and read that it was his Majesty wish that he should accept the position of Lieutenant-Governor of We are told that the uncertain flame of a tallow Upper Canada. candle lighted the darkness in which this message was received : ere long not so much as a single ray would illumine the darkness of despair which from this hour began to settle upon unfortunate Canada. It will probably never be being to settle upon unfortunate Canada It will probably never be known whether it was not a mistake by which F. B. Head was appointed. Some think that another gentleman of that name was intended by the that name was intended by the proposer. But Head, the poor Law Commissioner was the only and head was Commissioner, was the only one known to Lord Glenelg, and he was In his narrative, he candidly tells us, that he was really appointed. grossly ignorant of everything that in any way related to the government of our colonies? Such that ment of our colonies.' Such then was the man who was to correct the abuses and allow the criterious and allow the criteri abuses and allay the grievances of our young Province, such was the man who in his improves here was the such was there was the such as th man who in his ignorance became the instrument of tyranny as others had done before, but to a less degree, in the famous oligarchy of Canada the Family Convert Canada, the Family Compact.

I do not doubt, I do not think there is room to doubt, that Sir F. B. Head and his predecessors pursued conscientiously a course which seemed to them proper. They came out here possessed of the most meagre comprehension of colonial activity activity and there meagre comprehension of colonial government, and in this case there was an utter incapacity for government, and in this case at once was an utter incapacity for government of any kind. They were at once surrounded by the influence of the provided by the surrounded by the influence of the Family Compact. They were made to believe that the one for to believe that the cry for responsible government meant revolution and separation and that the and separation, and that those who raised it were a low untutored class, disturbers of their country. disturbers of their country's peace, and traitors to their sovereign. Imbued with this idea arms Imbued with this idea, our Governors threw themselves into the arms of the Compact sole embediment of Gue of the Compact, sole embodiment of Canadian loyalty, and had only contempt and sugnition for its contempt and suspicion for its opponents.

(To be continued.)

Audis, 'Trockuende Ode;' New Syd. Soc., 'Atlas of Pathology Fasc 1-4;' 'Compressed View of Points in Treating with United States (1814);' Sir H. Douglas, 'Value of B. N. American Provinces, and Speech on Treaty of Washington;' 'Red River Rebellion,' Letters by Hon. Jos. Howe, and Hon. Wm. Macdougall;' Yule, 'Boundary of New Brunswick;' 'Report on Division of Lower Canada into Polar ties;' McLeod, 'Problem of Canada;' 'Report of Norwegian Expedition, 6 pts;' 'Geodatische Arbeiten and Vandstandsobserva-PAMPHLETS ADDED TO LIBRARY SINCE JAN. 14, 'Lyf of Charles the Grete,' (Eng. Charlemagne Rom., "Decharmes, 'Formes Vibratoires des Bulles de liquide Glycérique