

The Reporter's Pencil.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE first public meeting of the Society this session was held in the David Morrice Hall, on Thursday evening, November 24th. There was a fair attendance. After a few opening remarks by the President relative to the Society's workings and benefits, Rev. L. H. Jordan was invited to the chair.

"I am thinking of home" was sung by an English quartette composed of Messrs. MacWilliams, MacVicar, MacFarlane, and Dewar; "Holy, Holy, Holy" in Armenian by H. T. Kalem; and "Au Combat" by a French quartette consisting of Messrs. Lods, Maynard, Bouchard, and Rondeau. Two readings were also given, a selection from Hamlet by J. J. Forbes and one in French by P. N. Cayer.

The debate for the evening was on the subject: "Resolved, that Christian ministers should take an active part in politics."

M. MCKENZIE was the first speaker in behalf of the affirmative. He said in effect, that politics is the science of government, and the object of government is two-fold, (1) to regulate the equitable relations of men by protecting the weak against the strong, and by securing to each member of the community his natural and civil rights and, (2) to promote the general well-being. It is in this broad sense we assert that ministers should take part in politics. In the politics for which we plead principles should rule. These must be inculcated by men who understand them, who believe in them, and who desire to see the cause of righteousness advanced. No class answers better to these requirements than that of the Christian minister. The Bible is his royal statute book, the guide for minister and statesman alike. Every sermon or lesson which influences the life and conduct of the citizen has a good or bad influence on the state, and to that extent is political, therefore ministers should bring gospel principles, to bear on politics. God's servants manifested their interest in state transactions in both Old and New Testament times. Joseph counselled both king and people as to their conduct. Samuel pursued the same course. It was Elijah who brought Ahab to his senses. The Apostles gave instructions for ruler and subject. The christian minister is the legitimate successor of the Old Testament Prophet, and the New Testament Apostle and should be heir to their zeal and devotion for their country's welfare. Ministers of state, in bygone days, have seldom been guided by the prin-