

thing in its place—and the clothes might need mending, and buttons might be wanting, and altogether Mrs. O'Rourke thought it her duty, as a Christian woman, to go and see about it. So she went and saw that his trunks were safely locked, so that the girl might not be tempted to pry into them, and looked carefully on the floor for loose change, which would be useful for benevolent objects, and in short she "tidied up" the room pretty well, and then went to the closet. Fergus had placed the skeleton on the shelf and hastily turned the key and had gone away in a hurry without thinking any more about it. So Mrs. O'Rourke opened the closet door and commenced to look at the clothes. While thus engaged in the gloom, she unfortunately jolted the loose shelf, and the skeleton lost his balance and sense of propriety; he fell forward, rattling on to Mrs. O'Rourke, with his bony arms loosely clasping her fair neck. Mrs. O'Rourke behaved very properly in this trying state of affairs; she screamed wildly, and started back, and when she saw the skeleton, went off into a dead faint. Here the maid found her some time after. When Fergus came home at noon he missed his usual meal, and instead of it learned that the mistress was sick in bed, and the maid too busy attending on her to take care of such every-day matters as dinner.

The landlady was in bed for some days, and Fergus fearing that she might die, suffering great mental anguish. But she got up at last and began to be about again; so our hero, as the session was just ended, determined to go home. He carefully packed his trunks, putting in all his clothes, his valuable notes, books, and the cause of so much suffering, the skeleton. He paid his landlady and was about to leave, when a bailiff arrived with a legal document which caused him some trouble. It was a writ and a polite note from Messrs. Pettis & Fogger, Attorneys, &c., telling him that they, at the request of his landlady, had instituted proceedings against him for five hundred dollars damages, and that they were obliged to take security for their costs, etc. So the trunks were not allowed to leave the house.

Fergus was dumb-founded at this announcement; but he could make no impression upon the bailiff, who even threatened him with personal arrest. So he went forth to see if his friends could not help him out of his difficulty. But they all, by a strange coincidence, had so many claims upon them that they found it quite impossible to help him otherwise than by advice; this they gave him with the greatest liberality. One advised him to go to a lawyer and fight it out, others to compromise the matter with Pettis & Fogger, but none furnished him with the means of doing either. Finally, he made up his mind that he would go home and consult his father and the minister; and, as he had already bought his ticket, he lost no time in so doing. He made another unsuccessful effort to obtain his trunks, and then started for home with a heavy heart. But he never saw his trunks again, for they were appropriated by the eminent legal firm of Pettis & Fogger, as a slight recompense for the trouble and expense they had undergone; so Fergus returned in peace to the bosom of his family, and for a season was troubled no more by landlady, trunks, or law suit.

University Athletics.

Athletic sports have rapidly spread throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion during the last few years; whether for good or evil it is not within our province to discuss, only the fact would seem to carry its own justification. Our own athletic meeting in October was the opening one for McGill, and we all know how successful the attempt was. Snowshoe races are being mooted for some day late in February, and this would answer as the winter meeting of the Association; while some of the more enthusiastic have been seriously discussing the *pros* and *cons* regarding the attempt to organize a boating club to join the Rowing Association of American Colleges. Such evidences as these show that a spirit of muscular Christianity is asserting itself among our students. At the English Universities, Exeter College, Oxford, took the initiative in 1882, and these meetings have since been repeated annually; *Bell's Life* specially commenting upon "the revival of good old English sports." Within the last five years athletic meetings have become quite general; these *reunions* being certainly as successfully conducted, and as numerously attended, as any others.

These remarks have been suggested by the fact that during the past week we were shown the sketch of a literary enterprise, which is now approaching completion, in the hands of one of our students. His name we are not at liberty to mention; could we do so, we know that in McGill, at least, it would do much toward creating a feeling of interest in the scheme. We can, however, gratify public curiosity as to the aims and nature of the book.

Shortly after the athletic meeting last Fall a member of the committee conceived the idea of getting out a book on McGill institutions, the different clubs, rifle companies, Founder's festival, &c. In attempting to carry out the project it assumed much larger proportions, and we are now able to announce that early in March a book entitled, "University Athletics," will be published. It is intended to be a book of reference on matters connected with University and Public School sports, and will contain descriptions, rules, records, &c., up to date, of all those pastimes which are in vogue among the colleges and public schools of America and England. The author, or more properly perhaps, the compiler, has received promises of papers, or the papers themselves, from many sources. Among them we may mention, on Foot-ball, from the Captains of the "Twenties" at Harrow, Yale, Harvard, and Rugby, and also from the latter an account of their celebrated "Crickot Run." On Boating, from the Presidents of the clubs at Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, and Harvard; while Mr. C. W. Busk, Trin. Coll., Cambridge, Pres. C.U.C.C., furnishes an article on Canoeing, from notes of his own and personal hints from Mr. MacGregor, of "Rob Roy" celebrity. On Cricket, Mr. R. A. Fitzgerald, Secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club, a member of the Gentlemen's Eleven, and author of "Wickets in the West," and Mr. J. Luard Pattison, Private Secretary to His Excellency Lord Dufferin, send capital articles. Col. Worsley, the commander of the Canadian team at Wimbledon for two years, writes on Rifle-shooting—a subject of much interest, and one which, in the hands of such an acknowledged master, both in theory and practice, will add much to the value of the book. Mr. H. F. Wilkinson, of the London Athletic Club, author of "Modern Athletics," gives his paper on Ancient Athletics, besides many valuable hints on training and such kindred subjects. Among well-known Canadians, E. A. Meredith, I.L.D., sends several pages on general athletic subjects; and the special sports of the country, snowshoeing, lacrosse, &c., are being treated by Montreal writers well qualified to handle their several subjects. It had been hoped that Col. Fletcher, Secretary to the Governor-General, the first writer on drill in English, if not in any language, would have contributed a paper on the subject, but pressing public business prevented his compliance. We may say that the book is to be dedicated to the Right Hon. the Earl of Dufferin, Visitor to the University, and that, by letter, His Excellency has expressed his interest in it.

From the above hasty sketch it will be seen that our friend has a somewhat extensive field to go over, and we hope soon to be able to congratulate him and our College on the production of a book which, from the names of its contributors, ought to be a standard work on all matters connected with University sports; and we are sure that when it appears it will be a credit to the author, as well as to the originality which suggested so bold a scheme. The articles in no instance have ever appeared in book form before, and show in what a kindly spirit the enterprise has been received and encouraged by the eminent authorities whom we have already alluded to. In the meantime we will defer a more extended notice in regard to it, and content ourselves with announcing its inception and the progress already made, and wishing its compiler all possible success.

Since writing the above, we have been shown letters from Messrs. Thomas Hughes, M.P., Edmund Yates, John Brown, M.D., author of "Horse Subversive," Prof. James de Mille, author of "Cord and Creeze," &c., and the author of "Four Years at Yale,"—and the hope is held out that several of these "Princes of the Pen" will materially aid the work on *Ludi Academicenses* by sending articles in addition to their expressions of "best wishes for your success," &c.

The Earl of Shaftesbury in addressing the students of the Royal Polytechnic College of London on the distribution of prizes, made the following observation, which admits of very wide application: "It was a common mistake among men at college, but one much to be regretted, that they would rest content with honours when they had obtained them. Honours to such men would be as the Pillars of Hercules to the mariners of old; when they had attained to them, they had navigated the globe, and there was nothing left for them to do. But this is altogether wrong. Prizes should be considered, not as the conclusion to work already done, but rather as fresh starting points for work still to do. The one great element for success, in which men most failed, was perseverance—a dogged and determined perseverance, which, it appeared to him, was one of the greatest qualities of the human mind."