

OUR DIARY.

We do not know whether it is a custom of the Students of McGill to keep a diary; it is a most useful article, and, as the advertisements say, "no household is complete without one." When we speak of a diary, we do not refer to those bulky tomes which almost everyone at some time in his life has a fad for filling up with voluminous accounts of what they have done every day, as if they were anxious to keep an account of their daily actions with a view to the future checking of items in the books of the Recording Angel. No, the books we refer to are those in which we enter what we are going to do; how we intend, if the fiscal policy we have mapped out for ourselves is successful, to pay such and such a bill on the 20th, or perhaps entering a resolve that upon the 4th of Feb. we would take another "try" at that exam. in which we got plucked last month, or perchance making a memorandum that in February, 1896, we have to attend a meeting of the University Pin committee, or some little item of that kind; this is the sort of diary which we recommend to every student as being most useful.

This idea is suggested to us as we turn over the leaves of our Editorial Diary for 1894, noticing, by the way, that some articles promised us for the last number are still to come. We see under the date of Jan'y. 15th, in great big letters, and underlined in red ink, a note to the effect "Last day for the reception of contributions for the prize competition."

We ourselves were surprised to see that the time being so near for examinations had rather driven it out of our Editorial heads; and lest any of our subscribers should also have overlooked the date, we would recall it to their minds. The rules governing the competition will be seen by reference to our issue of Nov. 24th, 1893, and we earnestly recommend a perusal of them, and of course the editors themselves will be delighted to give any further information in their power.

We have no hesitation in saying on behalf of the Editorial and Business management of the FORTNIGHTLY, that we feel deeply interested in, and not a little anxious for, the success of the scheme we have put forward. We have taken upon ourselves, we firmly believe in the best interests of our paper, the responsibility of departing from the usual routine of College journalism in McGill in inaugurating this competitive system, and it is to you, our undergraduate subscribers, that we look to support us in the step we have taken. It must be patent to you as it is to us, that this is the critical year of the FORTNIGHTLY'S existence. Last session the untiring and devoted energy of the two boards brought the paper up to its high standard, but it was backed by the enthusiasm of the student body at large over the resurrection of a college paper; this session the present management took up with some slight misgivings the work where it had been left off by the retiring boards, for we felt deeply that if our united efforts could not keep up the paper this year it would lose the ground it had gained under the former management, for we fully realized that when the

novelty had worn off, the general enthusiasm over the paper would to some extent decrease. It was with this in view that we earnestly besought you to aid us in our work by sending us articles, and we regret to say that our appeal did not meet with the general response which we had allowed ourselves to expect. We then decided to offer two prizes of twenty and ten dollars for the best stories submitted, and we now make a second appeal to you to endorse the step which we have taken.

As to the value of the prizes offered we can only say that we have devoted the largest amount which our financial condition would justify; and if the scheme is successful we look forward to seeing it permanently established; but, on the other hand, if, through indifference or apathy on the part of the undergraduates, it should fail, then it is greatly to be feared that its effect would be injurious rather than beneficial.

In conclusion, we feel that we have done all in our power in starting the competition, and it is you who must carry it to a successful issue; we therefore ask you to make an entry of it in your diaries, and hope that Jan. 15th will see an amount of original manuscript and literature handed in to the gentlemen who have kindly consented to act as judges which will cause them to stand aghast at the work they have undertaken and perchance to regret their generosity.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

AN ISLAND REVERIE.

One night, many hundred years ago, when the Star Angel slept, the dear stars in numbers quivered with desire to roam and wander through the Heavenly plains. They shook themselves free from the easy clasp of their sleeping Guardian, and floated out into the night. Before they had travelled far, a wind arose and blew them rudely hither and thither. So, when the Angel awoke, he missed his charges, and trembled in pain, causing a strange and restless trouble through all Nature's throbbing heart. His hard breathing impelled the floating stars towards Earth, and they were hurried downwards through illimitable space, and in the storm that followed, they seemed lost forever. But the following morning, Earth was richer and sweeter, for hundreds of fairy isles peeped above the glancing waters of the St. Lawrence, vying with one another in their depth of color and beauty of outline.

Year in and year out, these Islands remained, ever increasing in their beauty, and making men gladder to be alive in God's world of loveliness. At times a wind would breathe across them, with the tenderness of a mother caressing her babe, and again a low, sobbing sound would be heard through the trees as if someone were calling and calling in vain. But the waves would leap up and kiss the green shores, and the Sun smiled down upon them in gladness. Here the Earth Spirit felt Heaven's fire the keenest, and here Heaven's angels loved to rest at times.