

aconda after dinner. This view of the matter, apparently, has never presented itself to the minds of the Legislative Council of the Province of Quebec. But as the old saying has it: "Those whom the god wishes to destroy, he first makes mad." A few more actions of senile, irrational despotism on the part of the Council, together with the spectacle of a neighboring province governing itself admirably without any Upper House, will open the eyes of the people of Quebec to the fact that their legislative tree will produce better fruit for the lopping off of a useless rotting branch.

OUR SOCIETIES.

The various student organisations within the college walls are recognized to be potent factors in the course of education which we are receiving. But the position occupied by these societies has always been a subordinate one, and the fulfilment of their commands has never been allowed to interfere with the first and most important duties of college life. Society work is never accepted as a substitute for class work nor does any society exercise a controlling influence over the college as a whole. During the winter months a number of societies enjoy a vigorous existence; but with early spring, when the prow of the scholastic shell is turned upon the home stretch, the various social bodies are by common consent disbanded, so that rarely does any society continue to carry on its work after Easter time. During the past winter the weekly meetings of the three debating clubs and the Scientific Society, and the fortnightly meeting of the St. Thomas Academy, afforded pleasant and useful occupation for many hours that might otherwise have been lost. Two of these organizations, however, the Senior Debating Club and St. Thomas Academy, did not seem to

work with as much enthusiasm as in former years. The reason of this is partly to be found in the unusually small membership but also, we fancy, in a diminution of energy in the members. The Senior Debating Club has seen several interesting resolutions put to a vote with scarcely a word for or against them except from those appointed to speak. The St. Thomas Academy has suffered from a precisely similar affliction. Even the Scientific Society with an enrolment as large as the other two combined, saw many of its sessions sparsely attended. A new feature introduced this year by the Scientific Society, met with unqualified approval from all the students, viz., the occasional procuring of a lecture on some scientific subject, by one of the professors or some other gentleman outside the society, Father Balland's three lectures on "The Origin of the World," and Prof. Glasma-cher's and Dr. Prevost's on "Microbes" excited a very great interest and filled the hall of the society with eager listeners. Perhaps the other societies might attempt something similar in succeeding years if any disposition to allow the regular work to languish becomes visible. The most careful direction cannot preserve our social clubs from periods of depression; wherefore, at these times, some more than usually strong attractions must be offered to members. It frequently happens at other colleges that some prominent lecturer, reader or elocutionist is invited to give an entertainment under the auspices of some college society, and the plan seems to be a good one. The experiment made this year by the Scientific Society leads us to believe that a similar plan might be successfully adopted by the St. Thomas' Academy and the Debating Clubs. Those who will next year be members of these societies might, with advantage, take this idea into consideration during the next six months.