

history with a view to reading a paper on them before the ethnological society on my return, but found them so very reticent on the subject that I had to abandon my purpose. I have bestowed considerable attention on the study of the streets in the city, with the intention of discovering, if possible, the original plan according to which these streets were designed, and have come to the conclusion, after very careful deliberation, that there was no original plan or scheme, but that they were laid out by an intoxicated person on a dark night, or, perhaps, by two such persons, the darkness and intoxication in one case being exceeding great. The effect produced on one in wandering through one part of the city in particular, is such as to induce a feeling of indèscribable meanness, occasioned by finding oneself ever and anon coming to a halt in a vacant lot, or some private individual's back yard, where the greater number of the streets seem to terminate. Such an experience is calculated to remove every trace of dignity which a person possesses, in an incredibly short time; and the more one happens to have of that article, which is both useful and ornamental in ordinary circumstances, the quicker does it seem to disappear in these regions; and then some difficulty is experienced in persuading oneself that he is not a tramp in quest of cold fowl and lemon pie. Altogether the sight of these streets in all their complexity, is one to be remembered,—to be stored up in your recollection, and brought out in old age, on those occasions when you take pleasure in recounting to your wondering grand-children the marvellous scenes and strange experiences which it has been your lot to pass through. [Here a few sheets of the letter have been lost. The next one in our possession is as follows.] Among other places of interest, I visited the University, incorporated by charter from the Queen, I am told, and named after her—Queen's University. The College buildings are among the finest in the city, and are rather pleasantly situated in a position which commands a good view of the harbour, from which also the buildings appear to fine advantage. There is a gymnasium in connection with the college, where the students repair in considerable numbers, to exercise and develop their muscles, principally those of their lungs and larynx. In the same building there is a medical college in affiliation with the University. It is rather a peculiar institution in many respects, and I have taken the trouble to investigate those peculiarities to a considerable extent. Its system of government, and the principles in accordance with which it is conducted, are of so novel and unique a character, that you will no doubt be interested in learning of them. In the first place, it differs from all other institutions of the kind, of which I have heard anything, in being under the control of the students instead of the professors. The general method of conducting its affairs is of the following character. When the students wish to issue any instructions to the faculty, they meet together for the purpose of deciding on these in a special room of the building, which they love to call the "den," a word

redolent with sweet memories for the average medical student. The intensity of the appropriateness of that title to the place can only be realized by those who have beheld it in all its glory. Especially is this to be accomplished on those occasions when they are celebrating the ceremonies connected with their favourite assembly, which they term a "re-union" or "pic-nic," a species of entertainment which would require a special description to give anything like an adequate idea of what it includes. The opening ceremony, however, invariably consists in introducing into their mouths that particular enemy whose duty it is to steal away their brains. This introductory performance is gone through with that neatness and despatch which characterizes the average medical student in such matters. The enemy performs his part of the contract with equal thoroughness and celerity, and then those mysteries begin, the adequate description of which would tax a Dante's powers. In reference to the celebration of these "re-unions" the place was named the "den." It is here, then, that they meet to "expatiate and confer their state affairs." Having, at any of their business meetings, formulated their united will upon any matter, the secretary is instructed to forward the same to the faculty and the matter is settled. One of their number, who is of a mathematical turn of mind, has discovered some interesting relations to exist between the time required to come to any decision, and the state of the meeting itself, which are perhaps worth mentioning. From the comparison of a large number of observations he has been able to deduce the following law, namely, that the time taken to reach any definite conclusion is inversely proportional to the square root of the percentage of those present who can successfully walk a crack in the floor ten feet in length, and directly proportional to the amount of talking done. It has been represented to me as an actual fact, that when the students allow any of the professors to take a holiday, which they are often so generous as to grant without its being requested, they do not deduct anything from their wages, but allow them to count full time, all of which tends to exhibit the amicable relations existing between professors and students. During the present session, however, certain difficulties have arisen which would seem to indicate that the professors had presumed too much upon the good nature of their employers, and had thereby involved themselves in trouble. It appears that a year or two ago the faculty undertook to give a course of instruction in medicine to a number of ladies, upon the understanding that the course was to be quite as full as that given to the gentlemen, though a separate one. From some cause or other they found that it would be inconvenient to fulfil this engagement; so the ladies had either to give up their course, already entered upon, or attend lectures with the male students. Unwilling to do the former, and believing that the latter, though a decidedly unpleasant course, would only be a temporary arrangement they entered the classes without any opposition on the part of the male students. Still it seems