

MCGILL FORTNIGHTLY

A Fortnightly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Event.

VOL. III.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 9, 1894.

No. 7

McGill Fortnightly.

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The MCGILL FORTNIGHTLY is published by the Students of the University on the Friday of every second week during the College Session.
The annual subscription is \$1.00, payable strictly in advance. Remittance to be made to the Chairman of the Business Board, 85 Union Avenue, Montreal.
Single copies may be obtained at Wm. Drysdale & Co.'s, E. M. Renouf's, Cyrus Ashford's, Chapman's and W. Foster Brown's, Booksellers. Price, 10 cents.
Address Contributions to Editor-in-Chief, 653 Drexler Street, Montreal.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WE REGRET that the following communication reached us a few days too late for our last issue, we insert it now, feeling assured that its appearance will be gratifying to the many who have been eager for information upon the subject with which its contents deal.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
Dec. 17th, 1894.

To the Editor of the "McGill Fortnightly" :—

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of Dec. 7th, reference was made to excessive delay in publishing the new edition of the "McGill University Song-book." On behalf of the committee appointed to collect material and get it ready for the press, I have been asked to state the chief obstacle which has hitherto prevented the appearance of the work.

When the labour of compilation ended,—and this was almost a year ago—final arrangements were about to be made with a Montreal firm to publish the book immediately. Almost at the last moment, however, the committee was informed that it would have to seek another publisher, as important business changes obliged the firm in question to abandon the venture. The immediate steps necessary to publication had to be taken afresh, the result being that the committee

and a second publisher are now on the eve of coming to terms, which will, it is believed, prove satisfactory to all parties interested.

Were I to enumerate the difficulties of various kinds attendant on the preparation of a University Song-book, your readers might not be led to consider the office of the committee a sinecure, but enough has been said to indicate that the committee has not neglected the task it undertook to perform.

I am,

Yours truly,

CHAS. E. MOYSE.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE MARINE INSPECTOR'S STORY.

We were sitting round the big stove in the house of old Louis Chouinard, the pilot, at Cock Point,—or *La Pointe aux Coques*, as the French call it,—about half way between Father Point and Metis, one November night in 1872, killing time by yarning away to each other.

There was Louis, a typical French Canadian pilot, every mortal thing about him home-made except his briar wood pipe, with his face the color of bright buff leather, as smooth as if the wind had blown all his wrinkles away instead of working them in; there was Captain McLean of the ship "Sir John Pink," which had left Quebec with grain for Liverpool, but ended her voyage on the beach at Cock Point, and the sea that was up that night was fast pounding her to pieces; there was Jock, his son, who had shipped as second mate; and I was down as usual in the interest of the insurance companies.

Louis was in rare story-telling trim that night, and I never heard anything better than his description of the phantom ships of Sir Hovenden Walker's expedition which from time to time renew their terrible tragedy.

By the way, that story is a good example of how tradition preserves facts. The squadron was wrecked on the ledges off the Ile aux Œufs early in the last century.