

THAT the Athenæum Society has advanced along certain lines during the last few years cannot be denied. The papers read before the Society are of a higher order than they were formerly and many objectionable features have been eliminated. In the debate however which is an important part of the evening's programme, there is room for improvement. This should be such that those listening to the discussion would get a clear and comprehensive view of the subject in hand, and be able to vote intelligently when the question was called. Although this has been the standard before the Athenæum, it is not always reached. Very often the calling for the debate is the signal for a large number to leave the room, and there is a tendency on the part of those who remain to be satisfied with a very superficial discussion of the subject, and a readiness to grant excuses to those who have been appointed as leaders but who have not gathered sufficient information to be able to present sound argument, and consequently can only give such stray thoughts as may come to them on the spur of the moment. As a result, there is not so much good derived from the Society as might otherwise be.

The object of the Athenæum as stated in the preamble to the constitution is "to afford facilities for improvement in public speaking, for the culture of a literary taste, and for the acquirement of general information." It is easily seen that the debate is peculiarly adapted to the attainment of this object, and should therefore hold a high place in the estimation of the students; and a demand for a more thorough and exhaustive discussion of the subject should be created.

ON the programme of the Teachers' Association, held in Hantsport a few days since, we notice the names of three of the teachers from Horton Academy. We take this as a hopeful sign. There has been too wide a leap between the common school and college work. It is wise that our preparatory schools should be merely an intermediate step between public school and university. The student should not take a wide leap over the study of his own country and land on classic ground. He should rather become familiar with his own province, then work outward gradually.

Occasionally, we hear severe criticism passed on a college graduate for not being informed on certain

subjects which the innocent country lad, unacquainted with orists and the mysteries of differentiation, is tolerably well informed on. The criticism is just; but where should the fault be placed? Certainly not on the college, for it is but fair to assume that the work is done before entrance. Then we must look elsewhere. Too often the fault is in our Academies. A University should not be a kind of mill to grind out that commodity known as B. A's. It is not numbers that make the worth; rather the amount of knowledge received, and that can be put to practical use. Let the solid work begin in the preparatory school. No attempt should be made to make the school popular, by light or superficial work. On the other hand, there should not be a rush to the opposite extreme. If any student chooses a school on the first supposition, he is a person not to be desired by any college that wishes a reputation for first-class work done. And is this not what each wants? Men who can do her credit—whom she would not blush to see with the desired letters attached to their names.

WE gladly give space in the present number to the contributed article. It has the right tone.

Acadia must look to her Alumni and students to make her attain a still higher degree of efficiency. The members of the Faculty are competent to show what is wanted, and direct, but others must aid. The propositions for two Professorships should not be impossible with a growing Alumni. The increase of salary to present professors would aid to help our University towards the place we would see her occupy. A hurrying outside world will not stop to consider what it may take to be external. The graduates and students, former and present, must stay their attention here. Can we not as students follow the plans proposed? We are certainly indebted to her whom we would claim as our *Alma Mater*. Reason tells us it is but right to discharge that indebtedness to the best of our ability. Acadia has not an array of millionaires at her back, hence the communication in the present issue.

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