

At the last meeting ballots were cast for the best debater and the best five readers. Mr. Sage received the debating prize. The latter were examined by M. Pernet for the final decision of the reading award. The choice fell on Mr. Shaw. The essays were examined by Mr. Worrell, Mr. Davidson received the prize. The money contributed by the freshmen to the library was expended in the purchase of Chambers's *Encyclopædia*. The want of such a work has long been felt.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editors of *Rouge et Noir*.

DEAR SIRS,—Will you kindly allow me through your columns to correct an error which appeared in the exchange column of one of the best papers upon your file. The *Notre Dame Scholastic* (May 14) has a quotation taken, says the editor, from a book written by a Protestant Clergyman, Rev. W.A. Johnston, entitled "Vox Populi aut Dei." This is a mistake. It is an open secret that the book, though published anonymously, was written by a layman in the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

Truly yours,

THEOLOG.

EXCHANGES.

How easy it is to criticize; how difficult to improve. And surely no one is in a better position to fully appreciate this fact than the exchange editor of a College paper. But if only the criticisms are made, and received, in a proper spirit, who will think them better unsaid?

In our last issue we had somewhat to say of the *Portfolio*. True, we did not *gush* over it: yet neither did we make our humble suggestions in harsh terms, nor even unmixted with commendation. Also, there was a question or two tangled in the paragraph.

How little we dreamed, while writing it, that we were preparing trouble ahead. The *Portfolio* for April has honoured that poor little paragraph of ours with nearly three columns of attention in its editorial department. We appreciate the distinction.

The article is written in *Portfolio's* best style,—and the standard is not by any means low—and yet we must take exception to it in two points. In the first place, there is plainly an attempt, on the part of the writer, throughout the whole article, to be sarcastic. Now, not only is it very forced, and evidently not at all in keeping with the fair writer's real nature, but it betrays a sad lack of appreciation of the true spirit of our criticisms. And secondly, it would have a College paper little more than a bald chronicle of dry events, with an essay exercise department attached. What they say of their local column is entirely wide of the mark. It is nonsense to waste time in definitions as to what 'local' means. There is no misunderstanding on that head. We said that there was little more than half a column of matter in the February number, which was of local interest. We can only repeat the assertion.

There is, of course, much difference of opinion as to just what a College paper should be. Here is what the C. C. N. Y. *Free Press* thinks on the subject. 'A College paper need not be instructive; instruction can be found elsewhere. A College paper should be vivacious, humorous, and occasionally sarcastic; should look to the amusement of its readers and not their mental development. They are supposed to receive enough of the latter in their class rooms: a journal should effect a change in the dull monotony of the student.' Yet one need only read papers like the *Wittenberger* to see that there are some who have opinions the very reverse—save perhaps in the matter of sarcasm. *Wittenberger* is always half made up of literary articles mostly on the heaviest obtainable subjects.

The *Berkelyan*, after quoting the *Free Press*, as above, adds: 'a College paper must be interesting, else there is no excuse for its existence. This does not mean that all serious matter should be excluded. Let us have articles witty, articles wise; articles humorous, articles serious. Banish dullness from the paper, for by this will the subscription list grow.' To this we would add: it should be the mouth-piece of the students and graduates, and its appearance should be attractive.

Very few college papers, we fear, satisfy this description. Some come very near it, however. The *North Western* is one of these: its various departments are well balanced, and generally ably written. The *Lantern* is another, its editorials especially strike us as well written, fearless, and plain. Both are most attractive in appearance: so also, Queen's College *Journal*, *Haverfordian*, *Ariel*, and some others. Not so, the St. Vincent *College Message*, a paper of most sorry make up.

It is rather strange that Heidelberg College cannot edit her own paper, but has to get it done for her by outsiders. Perhaps that accounts for the 'strong weakness' of the *Journal's* exchange columns, locals, &c.

'but now comes *Rouge et Noir*, all the way from Canada, with two-thirds of a column filled with sugar plums for the *Scholastic* and hot shot for the *Lariat*,' says *Lariat*. In truth, we took just two lines and a half to say that *Scholastic* noticed *Lariat's* blunders with forbearance and good temper. Seventy lines to the column.

Beltrusco has changed its name, it is now called *Academica*. It is a good paper, by whatever name they call it, interesting and neat.

Acta Victoriana shows many signs of improvement, and is already quite a nice paper. We are pleased to see that it has adopted, in its 'new form, our suggestion as to having two columns to the page. The local editor is evidently a man of some wit. The picture of Faraday Hall should be in a more conspicuous place. *Acta* now compares favourably with many of our exchanges. Its editorials are sensible, and display a creditable amount of information. We always shall be glad to see it.

Thanks, *Undergraduate*, for the very flattering way in which you speak of us. Yes, you are right; this is an 'Episcopal' college. But we never before heard of an Episcopal style of architecture. Trinity is built in the Perpendicular style, we have always been taught.

Lariat speaks of the 'cold regions of Canada'; and *Illini* refers to *Sunbeam* (Whitby is thirty miles east of this) as coming 'from a region proverbial for the rigor of its climate.' Will the good folks over the line never learn that Toronto is only 130 miles north of Chicago? Why will our enlightened neighbours across the way persist in speaking of us Canadians as if we lived in snow huts, subsisting on whale-fat nine months of the year, and fighting Indians and polar-bears the other three. Look at the map my friends.

Student Life is responsible for a very exciting four act tragedy, entitled 'The Co-Ed's Revenge.' The scene in which the 'berluddy villyan' wipes up the gore with the freshman, is specially strong.

Not the least interesting part of the *Hellmuth World* is formed by its letters, particularly those from Europe.

The exchange which calls for most attention, however, is the *Saturday Evening Mail*, of Des Moines, Iowa—first because of its merits, and secondly because we look upon it as a near relation of ours. It is ably edited by one of the three original founders of our paper—W. M. Crutenden, B.A. Our friend's opinions on Prohibition and Political questions beam strongly from the editorial columns. The whole journal is interesting and highly creditable to the management. We wish it every success.

Scholastic and *Detroit Every Saturday* continue to come as regularly as clockwork, with perhaps no equals, certainly no superiors, the one as a weekly college paper, the other as a weekly society and art paper. We would direct *Scholastic's* attention to Theolog's letter on another page.

We can forgive the O. I. C. its music-lessons, if only on account of *Sunbeam's* interesting 'German correspondence' and racy exchange column. You won't understand this. Given away with tea, you know.

And now we must leave *Lantern* to struggle against 'Evo,' Oberlin *Review* to correct *Wittenberger*, King's College *Record* to instruct *Portfolio* on the George Eliot question, *College Message* to wither *College Cabinet*, and the dreadful 'Alabama man' to give *Lancel*, *Haverfordian*, *College Message*, and others 'fits,' and the other papers to go their respective ways. We must hand over our exchange list and pen, and 'step down and out.' We have had a few little sparring matches with our exchanges at odd times, but we never wore hard gloves. In saying farewell, we feel as if we were parting with a company all friends.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following exchanges since our last issue: *Notre Dame Scholastic*, *Volante*, *Oberlin Review*, *Arion*, *Brunonian*, *Lariat*, *Rockford Magazine*, *Ariel*, C. C. N. Y. *Argus*, *Illini*, *Kansas Star*, *Emory Mirror*, *Oracle*, *College Rambler*, *Normal News*, *Haverfordian*, *Heidelberg Monthly*, *Acta Victoriana*, *Berkeleyan*, *Academica*, *Ryan's Collegian*, *Saturday Evening Mail*, *University Press*, *Every Saturday*, *Euphonian*, *University Reporter*, *Critic*, *Sunbeam*, *Richmond College Messenger*, *Philologist Gazette*, *Universal Penman*, *Hellmuth World*, *Queen's College Journal*, *Undergraduate*, *Hamilton School Magazine*, *Presbyterian College Journal*, *Anglo-Catholic*, *College Message*, *Sibyl*, *University Magazine*, *Wittenberger*, *Campus*, *College Record*, *Sackville Argory*, and 'Varsity.