

THERE is an art in reading. Your omnivorous book-worm may be among the worst informed of men. A student is often bewildered concerning what books and how many he should read during his course. One thing seems certain. The bend of his mind should not at first be allowed to strongly influence the character of his literary work. It is dangerous to specialize too soon. "Skimming" is another vice; not that every volume begun should be pursued from title page to finish, but merely that what is read should be well assimilated. Books studied for their style may generally best be read only in parts. If they are read for their matter, enough points should be fixed in the mind to give a well-balanced idea of the subject, with every portion definitely and thoroughly understood. How much more shall be acquired depends upon taste. The correct aim appears to be that of having the brain comfortably furnished,—to be able to offer in conversation and writing something more than wooden-seated chairs and uncovered tables, so to speak. Upon the richness of the reserve depends the ease of the entertainer largely. It is a relief to be able to talk without fear that an unexpected movement may brush aside a drapery and reveal our barrenness of thought. Attempts to seem to know are terribly wasteful of nervous energy.

STARING is generally supposed to be the prerogative of a particular and peculiar class. It also has its appropriate place. But wherever that place may be, and whosoever right it may be, certainly it does not belong among the students at eight o'clock Wednesday evening. Nor is it in the least necessary for Acadia to "line up" in the hall and form a guard of honor for the ladies of the Seminary on their exit from prayer-meeting. Need we say more?

IT becomes our painful duty to record the death of another alumnus, Rev. David Freeman, M. A., of Canning, N. S. Mr. Freeman had been in declining health for several months, and in November last, with the fond hope that a change of climate would bring about the desired results in his health, he went South, but all too late; the process of decline was near completion, and on the 18th ult. he passed peacefully into the great beyond.

Mr. Freeman graduated from Acadia in 1850, and afterwards studied at Newton and Rochester Theological schools. In 1855 he was ordained pastor of the Granville street church, Halifax. Removing to Canning some years subsequently, he made this his home as he devoted the remainder of his life to missionary work in the various parts of Nova Scotia. Mr. Freeman during all these years was closely connected with his *Alma Mater*, and at the time of his death occupied the position of Fellow of the University. In his not altogether unexpected removal, the Baptist ministers of the maritime convention have lost an esteemed and devoted fellow-laborer; while his numerous acquaintances will ever with profit remember his exemplary Christian character. To the mourning friends and relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy, and especially to his bereaved son, who is now a member of the graduating class at Acadia.

AMONG the things which ought to be, but are not, we notice in the list of the fourth-year subjects on our printed curriculum a series of lectures on Classic, English, French and German Literature, and the History of Mathematics. These have appeared on the calendar for two years, but as yet have failed to enter the realm of reality. We also find that "at the opening of the college . . . the Senate provides for the delivery of an oration in the Assembly Hall." This also is mythical. Yet, although we cannot pierce very far into the Stygian darkness that enwraps the plans and purposes of the powers that be, we at least venture to interject a modest "Why?" The answer is direct, and moderately crushing—"Nobody comes to hear the October oration, and the professors have not at present time for the other work."

Regarding the last, would it not now be possible, in view of the recent additions to the teaching staff, to arrange for the accomplishment of what has already been placed on the calendar as a desirable possibility? To teach well the side of a subject that is most valuable to the student, the instructor must have a greater or less acquaintance with its entire scope. And a course of lectures on the untaught portion, which equal from a literary standpoint to anything of the kind to which we are accustomed, would also have special interest from its bearing on our work. We know our teachers too exclusively from the class-room quarter, and do not thereby enjoy all the advantage which they are able, and doubtless willing to give us.

As to the other, we must admit that the first few days of the term are an inauspicious time to collect a large gathering of students. But possibly a few weeks later a very satisfactory audience might be obtained. At all events, it seems a pity to have the custom become a dead letter.