

WOLLESTOOK GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ST. JOHN GRAMMAR SCHOOL DEBATING SOCIETY.

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SALUTATORY.

With fear and trembling we approach the work of making our *debut* to the public. In one comprehensive sentence we can embrace our intention. We do not, as the low price of our periodical shows, desire to rob the pockets of our subscribers; but our aim is to devote our columns to Science and Literature.

We believe that the Saint John Grammar School is one of the most aspiring of its kind in America. About two years ago a Debating Society was started in connection with the School, devoted to literature and the encouraging of a high standard of practical knowledge in the school: this however will be referred to in its proper place. Then some of the members suggested that it would be a good idea to start in connection with the school a library. This scheme was successfully carried out about a year ago, and by the assistance of the *Board* and others interested in the school (to whom we are truly thankful for their generous assistance) has grown to a respectable size, now comprising about two hundred volumes, and it is still growing. About two or three months ago one of the teachers, Mr. Hay, who is distinguished for his deep interest in and knowledge of the "studies of nature", stirred up considerable interest among the scholars in the pleasure to be reaped from the study of natural history from nature itself. Very shortly a number of youths combined themselves together under the name of "The Naturalist Field Club", with the laudable intention of pressing ferns and flowers, or of spearing with pins and transfixing to cardboard a variety of small insects, of slaying birds, toads, snakes, etc., etc., and practising upon them the noble art of the taxidermist. This society we also will mention in its proper column. But now the spirit of enterprize became stronger and stronger, until with irresistible force it broke through all bounds of school-boy glory and determined that its possessors should cover themselves with honor—or obliquity—in the pages of a literary magazine.

In this short space however we will not attempt to do either; yet we think we should refer to the name which we have chosen. "The Wollestoock Gazette" has not been selected without due deliberation. Our aim as we before stated, is the encouragement of literary tastes and pursuits. We know that the population of St. John has been from very evident reasons largely migratory, consequently we thought that the majority of the inhabitants were ignorant of the Micmac name of the picturesque river which flows into the magnificent harbour which well nigh surrounds the city. We know that the statement will be contradictory to those of a well-known and fluent historian of this province, but still with youthful hardihood we dare to say that the Indian name of the St. John river was the "Wollestoock." That this is so we think we can prove and in hope that this

statement may provoke some slight interest in the history of the province we make our bow to the public hoping that they will be generous to our faults and by their patronage encourage our efforts to raise the standard of the scholars and to create an interest in the school among outsiders.

THE MEMORIAL HALL.

At a very enthusiastic meeting, held on the 18th of May last, a motion in favor of erecting a Memorial Hall was carried with but one dissenting voice. The one person who voted against the scheme of a memorial hall was in favor of putting up an obelisk or memorial column. As a gentleman who was present at the meeting very aptly remarked "we have enough mill chimneys in and around St. John without going to work to put up another at enormous expense. If they want any thing of the kind let them paint the gas house chimney a stone-color and christen it the Loyalist Memorial Column, and keep our city free from any more such unsightly objects." We do not want to insult the memory of the brave and noble band of men who, sacrificing their homes and their all, came to this province then a bleak and dreary wilderness at what they considered the imperative call of duty. A noble band verily!! Every person who voted in favor of that memorial hall should feel themselves pledged to help it along to the utmost extent of their ability, not only by subscribing liberally, but by also giving the cause the benefit of their most cordial and energetic support. The Market Square will undoubtedly be the site chosen as it was the spot at which the loyalists first stepped ashore after their long and tedious voyage. There will doubtless be much opposition to placing the building on this site, as some people say the city must have lungs, but the city of St. John with its wide and regular streets is all lungs; any one giving the matter that calm deliberation which the subject deserves will undoubtedly come to this conclusion.

It has been proposed that this building should contain a free reading room, public library, lecture room, mechanics' institute, picture gallery, and a gymnasium, where the youth of the city could find some better employment and amusement than holding up lamps posts and corner buildings, annoying and insulting the passer by.

The Town of Portland is already ahead of St. John having a free reading room open to all. This will be an incalculable benefit to the rising generation as well as to property owners in this city; for it will keep the youth of this city amused and employed and give the buildings and laymans' corner Dock street in particular, a chance to test their ability to stand upright without any such support. The picture gallery which is also proposed, would be a great attraction for country visitors to this much bart. fog-enveloped city.

One always has plenty of time if one employs it well.
—Goethe.