

» QUEEN'S » UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXIV.

KINGSTON, CANADA, DEC. 19TH, 1896.

No. 4.

Queen's University Journal.

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University
in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers, during
the Academic Year.

A. W. PLAYFAIR, M.A.,	-	Editor-in-Chief.
H. W. BRYAN, M.A.,	-	Managing Editor.
R. BURTON,	-	Editor for Arts.
E. C. WATSON, M.A.,	-	Editor for Medicine.
R. W. BROCK, M.A.,	-	Editor for Science.
MISS E. HENSTRIDGE,	-	Editor for Levana Society.
J. M. SCOTT,	-	Business Manager.
W. K. TANDY,	-	Asst. Business Manager.

**The Business Manager is in the sanctum on Tuesdays
and Thursdays from 11 to 12 to receive subscriptions.**

All literary contributions should be addressed to the
Editor, Drawer 1109, Kingston, Ont.

All communications of a business nature should be ad-
dressed to the Business Manager.

CANADIANS as a rule are patriotic. None more
loyal can be found than the students of
Queen's. But surely the sentiment brought
into prominence at the decoration of the college
building for the promenade concert cannot be iden-
tified with patriotism. It is true, we are sorry to
say, that a few students talked of tearing down two
American flags used to drape one of the windows,
but such "jingoism" was not at all widespread.
Loyalty as found in a Queen's man and in every
true British subject does not involve disrespect to
other nations. The true Briton feels that he can
afford to be generous. Nay, more, he knows that
unless he is charitable he is not truly British. Such
patriotism can lift up its voice in the streets when
occasion requires, but it is never a mere display of
emotional fireworks.

* * *

A vigorous discussion has been carried on for
some time in New York and other eastern States
with regard to the teaching of English in schools
and colleges. Such discussions are not unknown to
us here in Canada. They seem to be periodic with us
as well as with our neighbours to the south. In these
controversies glaring solecisms are credited to college-
trained men, reforms are suggested, and the blame
is tossed to and fro like a shuttlecock between
those who espouse the cause of the preparatory

schools and those who champion the colleges. It is
not our purpose to join in the present controversy,
but simply to take advantage of the opportunity it
affords for a few words of practical advice to our
own men. That "Queen's English" and "the
Queen's English" are necessarily synonymous can-
not be maintained. In fact we are at present a long
way off that ideal. Many men come to college after
very defective preparatory courses, and others come
from homes or districts where certain provincialisms
seem to be bred in the bone. The student who is
handicapped by one or both of these difficulties has
to undergo a prolonged struggle before he can use
freely and naturally the idiomatic English which
our Alma Mater has the right to demand from those
who would seek her imprimatur. In this struggle
the burden and responsibility must fall principally
upon the student himself. The faults to which our
men are most addicted are not so much those of ig-
norance as of habit, and nothing but rigid self-
discipline will eradicate them.

These faults are chiefly incorrect pronunciation,
careless and slovenly enunciation, false syntax,
and the use of provincialisms. Not all our profes-
sors are safe guides in pronunciation, and the same
may be said of the divines to whom we listen on
Sundays. Students should note every word to
which an unfamiliar pronunciation is given and look
it up in a reliable dictionary. But incorrect
pronunciation is usually a sin of ignorance and
can be forgiven more readily than the slovenly
enunciation with which we are sometimes tor-
tured. This can admit of no justification. It
is especially marked in the abuse of the vowel *e*,
and some eloquent pleader should take out a
brief for that hapless letter. Nowhere is it safe.
As an initial, in the body of a word, and especially
in such final syllables as "ness," the most improper
liberties are taken with it. We recently heard a
lady vocalist (not a Queen's lady, however,) run
through the whole gamut with the word "rejoice,"
giving the short sound to *e* in the first syllable and
harrowing the souls of her long-suffering audience.
Nuss and *niss* for *ness* are very common, and the
list might be extended indefinitely, but we forbear.