

## EXCHANGES.

The leading article in the *Sunbeam* for December is a sketch of Thomas Carlyle, which is readable and interesting.

The January number of the *Dalhousie Gazette* contains a very interesting article on Louisburg, as well as other interesting articles.

The December number of the *Argosy* is, we are happy to say, a slight improvement on the preceding number. The leading article is "all about buildings."

The *Queen's College Journal* contains some very good jokes. We wish we could say the same for some of our other exchanges. This number also contains several interesting items.

The January number of the *McGill College Gazette*, the first which we have received, presents a very fine typographical appearance, and is neatly printed on tinted paper. A good deal of space in this number is given to the Results of Examinations, etc., etc. Like the *Dalhousie Gazette* this paper also has a scarcity of bad poetry.

The January number of the *Philomathean Review* is fully up to the usual standard. The leading article in this number is a brief sketch of the life of Henry C. Murphy. This article is a valuable one and is well worth reading. It also contains notices of all the local literary societies, social clubs, etc., and a continued story entitled the "Silver Locket, or the Heir of Lawton Hall."

The *King's College Record* for December is really a very handsome paper and shows a good deal of enterprise on the part of the editors. It consists of twenty-six full-sized pages exclusive of the cover, and is printed on tinted paper. The reading matter is fully equal to the typographical appearance, and we tender our hearty congratulations to the editors on the success of their efforts to have a really good Christmas number.

## SCHOOL BOYS, ATTENTION!

Never set down a boy as stupid because he does not get on at school. Many of the most celebrated men that have ever lived have been set down by some conventional pedagogue as donkeys. One of the greatest astronomers of the age was restored to his father by the village school-master with the encouraging words, "There's no use paying good money for his education. All he wants to do is to lie on his back on the grass and stare at the sky. I'm afraid his mind is wrong." Scientific men have often been flogged for falling into brown studies over their books, and many an artist of the future has come to present grief for drawing all over his copy-book and surreptitiously painting the pictures of his geography. Your genius, unless musical, seldom proves himself one in childhood, and your smart and self-sufficient piece of precocity who takes all the medals, and is the show scholar of the school often ends by showing no talent for anything beyond a yard-stick. Sir Walter Scott was called stupid as a child, and it was not even considered at all to his credit that he was fond of "sich trash" as ballads, and could learn by heart any time. The boy who really bothers you by being so unlike his bright brothers may be the very one who will make you proud and happy some years hence. Take that for your comfort.—*Exchange*.

Edwin Booth, the American actor, is receiving a most enthusiastic reception at Berlin and is highly praised by the press.

## VARIETIES.

The editor of the Williams College *Athenaeum* is H. A. Garfield, son of the late President.

*The Moon* is the name of a weekly newspaper published by the inmates of the insane asylum on Ward's Island, New York.

Alexis Landry, one of the Acadians expelled from Grand Pré, the founder of Caraquet, New Brunswick, is buried on a headland shore of Chaleur Bay.

A silver coin fourteen hundred years old, with a portrait of Attila, King of the Huns on one side, with the inscription "Attila Rex," and the outlines of a fortified place and the word "Aquilega" on the other side, has been unearthed at Bránn, Moravia.

A coffin was discovered while some excavations in the nave of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, were being made, containing a box which held the skulls of Dean Swift and Stella, and a glass bottle in which a manuscript was sealed which it is thought may contain something of interest.

—A Philadelphia Reporter in describing the turning of a dog out of court by order of the Bench, says: "The ejected dog, as he was ignominiously dragged from the room, cast a glance at the judge for the purpose of being able to identify him at some future time."

The sidereal charts on which Dr. C. H. F. Peters, director of the Litchfield Observatory of Hamilton college, has been working for twenty-two years, have just been completed, and he has presented a set to every observatory, to the leading astronomers and to the members of the Board of Trustees of Hamilton college, as a Christmas gift.

THE POST OF HONOR.—One hot day in summer the train for Edinburgh arrived at Dunbar station very full. The militia had just been disbanded and the platform was crowded with home-going members of the "constitutional force," who made a furious rush at the carriages. One who had been quenching his thirst pretty freely jumped into a first-class carriage already quite full. "No room here, my man, quietly said a well-known D. D." "Well, where else can I go?" hipped the dishevelled warrior. "Go," replied the D. D. as he calmly pushed him out, "go where every British soldier should be proud to go—in the van."

A German newspaper sometime ago related an amusing story of the famous scientist, Alexander Von Humboldt, who took advantage of the exemption from duty of the covering of articles free from duty formerly the rule in France. In the year 1805 he and Gay Lussac were in Paris engaged in their experiments on the compression of air. The two scientists found themselves in need of a large number of glass tubes and since this article was exceedingly dear in France at the time and the duty on imported glass tubes was something alarming Humboldt sent an order to Germany for the needed articles, giving directions that the manufacturer should seal the tubes at both ends and put a label on each with the words "Deutsche Luft," (German air.) The air of Germany was an article upon which there was no duty and the tubes were passed by the custom officers without any demand, arriving free of duty in the hands of the experimenters.