

# THE MCGILL GAZETTE

VOL. III.—NEW SERIES.

MONTREAL, APRIL 1, 1877.

No. 6.

## TO LORENA.

Lorena, like an angel in the night,  
Arrayed in robes of spotless innocence,  
Thou comest to my cares with recompense  
Of gladness like the tumult of delight,  
Which woke the woods of Eden when the sight  
Of loveliness like thine upon the sense  
Of Adam beamed. I languish looking hence  
On places by thy beauty filled with light.  
Oh! I would give, to get one glimpse of thee,  
All joy, all gladness, all delight on earth,  
All happiness by maids to mortals given;  
But dare not dream of what the bliss would be,  
Which, in my heart, would have celestial birth,  
Were I with thee in a terrestrial heaven.

Semper mutant et revolvunt  
Mundus et mundana;  
Exspecto species solvunt—  
Omnia sunt vana.

O Juventas! somme grate  
In te dormitamus;  
Per rosetis tui late  
Nos tripudiamus.

Sed accedit dies dira—  
Scimus accessura—  
Cum somniculosa lyra  
Rude quassitura.

Non commonefaciatis,  
Est obliviscenda.  
Laeti irridete fati,  
Fata irridenda.

Combibete! Propinate  
Nostre almae matris  
Hanc gaudentes celebrate  
Frater compar fratris.

L. E.

## CANADIAN POLITICS.

No one, we feel certain, has ever, for one moment, questioned the advisability of the regulation which excludes from the columns of the MCGILL GAZETTE all controversies connected with Canadian party politics. Apart, entirely, from lack of space and other reasons of this nature, there are countless facts which justify such a limitation of our range of subjects. Were we to allow discussions upon questions of this class, were we even to refer to them as reviewers, were we to touch upon them never so impartially, bad feeling would be the only result of any such action on our part; and consequently, the rule laid down by the originators of

the first paper issued in McGill, and studiously adhered to by the editors of the various years since then, has been, in its operation, beneficial and good. In referring, at the present time, to this point, we do not desire in the slightest degree to depart from our previous practice, but we wish to make a few remarks upon Canadian politics in general, and to say a few words with reference to the political duties of University men.

As one of the foremost writers in this country\* remarked in 1865, in the introductory remarks of a serial begun in that year: "There exists in this community, no matter from what cause, a proneness to disparage the influence of our public men; to discredit generally the presence of high principle, and to challenge any claim to patriotic motives." This assertion is true, in a still greater degree, at the present moment, and might be extended still further, so as to state that this spirit, exhibited by many to-day, applies not only to statesmen and politicians, but also to politics as a whole. Nothing is more common now than to hear persons who, in the fullness of their conceit, (and we might add in the depth of their ignorance) fancy themselves immeasurably superior to the ordinary run of mortals, sneer derisively at the various public questions which, from time to time arise, and attribute to the worthiest efforts of our public men, motives personal, mercenary and mean. Now, although in some cases these insinuations have some ground of justification; although, to a certain extent, many of the issues which furnish matter for debate in our legislatures, may be frivolous and petty; although the treatment of these questions by public men may be, oftentimes, the reverse of lofty and statesmanlike; although, in some cases, the motives of our politicians may be anything but disinterested; and granted that personal recrimination and party prejudice are far too frequently displayed, we question very much whether, even in view of all this, there is any real excuse for the wilful abstinence of any intelligent man or party of men from participation in the discussion and settlement of political questions in Canada. If the range of politics has hitherto been confined; if the matters which have been the subject of legislation in the past have not been of that lofty nature which they possess, or are supposed to possess, in other communities, it is not for any lack of such subjects. Though this country is comparatively young, and though we are debarred from meddling in European politics, still it is by no means the case that there are no great matters for consideration in Canada, matters furnishing scope for the display of most exalted genius and the most scholarly erudition, and which equal, if they do not indeed transcend any questions in politics to be found elsewhere. Let no one then say that, on account of a paucity of important subjects for study and debate, he does not deem it worth his while to trouble himself about Canadian affairs; for, in the proper government of this country, in the conduct of her fiscal and economic interests, in the settlement of the issues between sect and sect, between nationality and nationality, in fact in all Canadian political questions, properly so called, there is given to any man, no matter who he is, an arena, in which ability, intelligence

\* The late Mr. Fennings Taylor.