

Cobourg and all clubs westward, and the former those east of the same place; and that at some leading centre in each section the final ties of the respective sections be played off, and the representative team from each section play off the final tie at some intermediate point. For the latter, or final games, we would suggest that an annual championship cup be offered. As centres where these ties might be played we would mention Toronto for the western section, Kingston for the eastern section, while Cobourg might be chosen for the final tie between the representative teams from each of the sections, for the Association Cup.

We feel confident that if some such plan as this were adopted, the game would receive the interest and patronage it deserves; while, on the other hand, by bringing the students of the different colleges together, foster a more cordial spirit between them. We have simply given an outline of what we would like to see effected, and will be pleased to have the opinions of others who are interested.

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REMINISCENCES OF A B.A. OF '56.

(CONCLUDED FROM LAST NUMBER.)

TWO new Professors were added to the staff in 1853. Rev. James George, formerly minister of Scarborough, and Mr. George Weir, a distinguished graduate of Aberdeen University, both men of force and enthusiasm, who contributed much to increase the popularity of the institution. Mr. George, elevated to the dignity of D.D. by the University of Glasgow in 1850, was also appointed Vice-Principal of the College until such time as a Principal could be found, and taught, besides the subjects of his own chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy and Logic, the Divinity classes for several years. He was a man of genius and power, who left a very decided mark on every student that sat under him, although he was deficient in exact scholarship. Mr. Weir, a couple of years ago honoured by his Alma Mater with the degree of LL.D., succeeded Rev. J. Malcolm Smith as Professor of Classical Literature, Mr. Smith having moved up into the Department of Theology as Professor of Hebrew, Biblical Literature and Church History. Professor Weir possessed a singularly warm temperament, and, as the Americans would say, *enthused* all his students. He was the *beau ideal* of a teacher in the department over which he presided. His manner of communicating instruction was all the more popular that he succeeded a gentleman with whom he presented a striking contrast. Mr. Smith was a man of fastidious taste, polished to a degree, with a biting power of sarcasm which used to wither up the blunders in his class. But his elegant scholarship well fitted him for a University chair; and, as it is important that students should come into contact with a variety of styles and powers in their instructors, he filled an important sphere in the Faculty, and his premature and sudden death in 1856 was greatly deplored by all well-wishers of the College. Plants require pruning as well as stimulating.

He was in charge of the Classical chair for a part of my first session, and I can yet recall the dignity with which he carried himself on all occasions, although he was not likely to awaken enthusiasm for their studies in the breasts of the youths who sat at his feet. The students, however, all soon discovered that the great power behind the throne was the Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, who even then seemed the venerable Nestor of the University. His great attainments and knowledge of matters academical naturally gave him great influence, and the young men found that Euclid and Algebra and Trigonometry had to be prepared, whatever else was neglected, as failure in Dr. Williamson's subjects at the final examination for B.A. was known to be fatal to a candidate's prospects.

The degree was awarded in those days wholly according to the result of a single examination, held at the close of the curriculum. The more recent plan of monthly and yearly examinations is a vast improvement upon the old system. I have yet a fearful recollection of the poor papers I gave in, even on subjects which I had fully mastered during my course, because I was physically incompetent for the ordeal, after a hard session's work, at the end of the month of April. The spring season always unmans persons of delicate constitutions; and, as I am always sensitive to barometric changes, my brain would not respond to my will, and so my last papers were, perhaps, the worst I gave in during my entire College course.

The Societies then in existence connected with the College were "The Debating Society" and the "Missionary Association." I can find no trace of the date at which the former was organized, but I presume it was the senior society of the University. The Missionary Association was founded 1st February, 1850, and is therefore now entitled to the respect which age extorts. Both societies were then in all the vigour of youth. Kingston was at that time a more important legal centre, comparatively, than it is to-day; and as a number of graduates were then in lawyers' offices in the city, they made the Debating Society a lively institution, their great ambition being to become fluent talkers. It was my misfortune to have so offended the dignity of the Executive during my second session that I was expelled from the Society; and if the records are in existence to this day, as I presume they must be somewhere, my name will probably be found as that of the only member who was ever expelled. It happened in this wise: A regulation was passed, although I was not a party to it, fining every member that was absent from a meeting, unless he sent an excuse to the office-bearers at that meeting. Being ill I was unable to attend a particular meeting, and I sent a verbal notice by a classmate that I could not be present. My surprise and indignation were great a day or two afterwards to receive from the treasurer a demand for the amount of the fine. I explained to him the situation, but he was inexorable. I thereupon sat down and wrote my resignation of membership in the Society, saying that I could not remain connected with it, so long as it kept on its books a by-law that carried absurdity on the face of it, since the same cause that might hinder a member's presence might hinder his excuse from reaching the meeting which he was unable to attend. This bold accusation was met by a motion for my immediate expulsion, my resignation being laid under the table.