

tention to Colonial affairs. The Anti-Jingo party in England, with such men as Churchill and Chamberlain in its ranks, would refuse to go into an enormous American War for Canadian grievances. A customs line between Ontario and Quebec is as justifiable as one between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Ralph Ross criticised arguments for the negative, and said that, as he favored Independence, he regretted the present dispute, which seemed to threaten a closer and burdensome connection with the United Kingdom. Space will not permit a review of the able arguments of either Mr. Ross or Mr. Colin Fraser, who spoke clearly and coolly for the negative, concluding the debate at a late hour.

The Vice-President put the amendment and the original motion to the vote of the meeting. The majority of the members were of a contrary opinion to both.

After a few words of commendation to the essayists and the announcement that whenever a quorum was present at 7.30 p.m., the meeting would be called to order at that hour, the Chairman declared the Society adjourned.

As considerable time is wasted through unpunctuality, members are requested to be in their seats at 7.25 p.m. at future meetings.

It is to be regretted that the Society, having hired an instrument, should through any cause be without some music at each meeting.

Monday afternoon an "open meeting" of the Temperance League was held, Dr. Wilson presiding. The Hon. Lou. Beauchamp, of Ohio, well known to all interested in the temperance cause, spoke eloquently on that question with which his sympathies are so thoroughly enlisted. Launching at once into the realities of a life of temperance and vice, he related a little of his own very varied experience—his strongest appeal, perhaps, to thinking men in favour of a temperate life. "This is the age of the young man"; an age characterized by the spirit of "Git thar, Eli!" as the Americans say. The privileges of education the youth of the day possesses are wonderfully in advance of those of but a comparatively few years ago. The temptations attending the young man of education are accordingly greater. Hence the need of increased vigilance on the part of the man himself, and on the part of society over the individual. "Young man, do not touch the glass!" "But I only drink now and then." Ah, yes; but the trouble is, "you drink so much more *now than then*." Mr. Beauchamp repeatedly remarks of the social glass, or of the first glass, "There's danger in it; there *is* danger in it," and as he relates the story of the lives of many promising young fellows, of many whose names are illustrious, one cannot but realize the force of what he says. The story of his own life as he relates it himself, and as it is known to many hitherto, is strikingly illustrative of the degrading effects of vice in all its forms on even the most gifted. At the same time he is in himself a noble illustration of a reformed life. The licensing system was put in such a light as to show its imperfections. Suppose you shut up half the saloons in the city, unless you stop half the appetites for strong drink what advantage is gained? None whatever. A man can get drunk in *one* saloon as well as in a dozen. Let not society palliate its conscience by thinking that the saloon-keeper is alone responsible for the misery occasioned by the liquor he sells over the bar. He is licensed to sell that liquor by the united vote of the community. For a paltry tax a government becomes responsible for all the iniquitous influence of strong drink, making the saloon-keeper its instrument.

After thanking the speaker for the favour he had conferred on the League by addressing them on the occasion, Dr. Wilson followed up Mr. Beauchamp's closing remarks of exhortation to the students to have a high and ambitious aim in life by an earnest appeal to all present to preserve a personal purity of thought and act, and to support the principles of the White Cross Army.

Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, F.R.S., the eminent English naturalist and traveller, will deliver two lectures in Convocation Hall, under the joint auspices of University College and the Canadian Institute, as follows:—*Thursday, March 10th*—The Darwinian Theory; and *Friday, March 11th*—Origin and Uses of Colour in Nature. Tickets are 75 cents for single lecture, or \$1 for the two, and may be had from Professor Wright, University College; Mr. James Bain, jr., Public Library, and from the Assistant Secretary at the Canadian Institute.

The Kingston *Daily Whig*, of Saturday evening, Feb. 5th, has the following item:—"The inter-collegiate debate is fixed for Friday next, at Kingston. The debate is: 'Resolved that it is desirable to secure the unity of the British Empire, and in order to do that, some form of federation or alliance to defend common rights, secure common interests, and discharge common duties is requisite sooner or later.' Queen's takes the affirmative, being represented by Messrs. A. Gardier and Rattray. Toronto sends Messrs. Ferguson and Atcheson, one of whom is spoken of as the 'Nestor' of Wycliffe College; but no matter what these men may be, Queen's will not be put to shame. The *Mail* says exception is taken to a graduate being placed on what was to be an undergraduate's de-

bate. *This is a mistake.* Toronto's challenge was sent to the Alma Mater Society of Queen's, and if they think strange of graduates being in attendance, they must remember that our best men do not leave Canada to complete their education, as was so often hinted during confederation discussions."

The Mathematical and Physical Society met on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 8th, the President in the chair. Mr. T. R. Rosebrugh read a very carefully prepared paper on Forms of Energy in Electric Circuits. He explained the chemical action of the Grove cell, and the manner in which the current is developed, and, after finding an expression for the amount of energy, he showed that the energy in the electric current from a dynamo is of the same form as that from a chemical cell. Messrs. Stafford and McKendrick then exhibited some very interesting forms of vacuum tubes, after which problems were solved by several members of the Society.

At McMaster Hall, Friday evening last, the *Cos Ingeniorum* literary society, whose members are all University men, held their second public meeting. After the opening prayer, Miss Kerr played a piano solo with great taste and expression, and was heartily applauded. A vocal solo, "The Old Organist," was well rendered by Mr. Sims Richards. An essay by Mr. E. O. Sliter, on "Socrates" then followed. The theme was very gracefully and comprehensively handled. Socrates' place in the realm of philosophy was lucidly shown; and his character and life were interestingly traced. The essay closed with an able description of the Socratic system. Miss Ethel Woods and Mr. Sims Richards delighted the audience with a vocal duet. Then came the debate on the value of Metaphysics and Classics in the College course. Messrs. G. Cross and J. H. Hunter successfully supported the study of Metaphysics, and Messrs. S. J. Farmer and Weisbrod that of Classics. The interest throughout the debate was intense. After a rousing chorus, Mr. Sliter, the President of the Society, expressed thanks to the kind musical friends, and to Pastor Denovan for his able presence in the chair. The meeting then dispersed. Mrs. Macvicar has returned from a visit to her daughter in Brooklyn.—President Castle highly pleased the students this week by an announcement to the effect that a visit to the College was shortly expected from the celebrated Biblical scholar and editor, Dr. Schaff.

The regular weekly meeting of the Historical and Political Science Association was held in McMillan's Hall, Feb. 10, at 4.15 p.m.; President Houston in the chair. After the usual business meeting Mr. Garvin read a paper on The Wages Theory, with special reference to what determines the rate of wages. Two theories were explained and discussed. First: The Wages Fund theory held by Mill, Fawcett, Cairns and others; of the aggregate capital invested, a certain portion not within the discretion of capitalists must be devoted to the wages of labourers—"the wages fund"; the rate of wages is, then, determined by the ratio of the number of labourers to the amount of the wages fund; hence, by a natural inflexible law, with the increase of population the rate of wages must constantly tend to a minimum; the only remedy is a restraint on the increase of population beyond a corresponding increase in capital. Second: The theory held by Walker, George, and others, that it is not the amount of capital previously saved, but the prospect of profit in production which leads an employer to hire labourers. Labour is mostly sustained by contemporaneous production. The real wages of the labourer is not the amount paid to him by the employer, but the amount of commodities which the labourer can obtain as his share in the quantity produced; hence, an increase in population tends to better the labourer's condition. The causes which regulate wages, according to Adam Smith, were mentioned, and the influence of trade monopolies indicated. The discussion which followed favoured the first theory. The subject for the next meeting is "Federation," to be discussed by Wm. Houston, M.A., and Mr. Stratton.

The Knox College Metaphysical and Literary Society held its sixtieth public meeting in Convocation Hall, on Friday, the 4th, at 7.30 p.m. Rev. J. F. McCurdy, Ph. D., was chairman. The Glee Club sang three pieces, the first one not being so well rendered as the other two. The essay on William Pitt, one of England's greatest statesmen, was admirably written and well received. Messrs. Gordon and Conning in their duet, "O Wer't Thou in the Cauld Blast," quite came up to expectations, and Mr. James Argo read "The Life-boat" in good style. The question at issue in the debate was whether art has had a beneficial effect upon moral and religious life. Messrs. W. P. McKenzie, B.A., and J. J. Elliott, B.A., argued for the affirmative, and J. McD. Duncan, B.A., of Moss Hall fame, for the negative, his colleague, Mr. A. Manson, not feeling able for the fray. Though Mr. Duncan's speech was unusually good both as to matter and style, the chairman decided in favour of the affirmative, which decision would probably have been the other way if Mr. Duncan had had a good supporter.