

# The Owl,

PUBLISHED BY

The Students of the University of Ottawa.

TERMS: One dollar a year in advance. Single copies, 15 cts. Advertising rates on application.

THE OWL is the journal of the students of the University of Ottawa. Its object is to aid the students in their literary development, to chronicle their doings in and out of class, and to unite more closely the students of the past and present to their Alma Mater.

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VOL. VII. MARCH, 1894. No. 7.

## WAIT NOT ON CHANCE.

"It is better to be born lucky than rich," is a proverb to the truth of which the vast majority of men give unqualified assent. The old pagan notion about fate is not dead, it lives, aye and exercises a mighty influence over many a man's life. Who has not met members of that vast army of pessimists, who are loud in their denunciation of the world, who declare in bitter tones of gloomy despair, that fate has always been against them, that they have never had a fair chance in the battle

of life, etc. Again do we not daily meet that light-hearted and light-headed optimist who is idling away the golden hours of youth—"just waiting for something good to turn up," as he expresses it. Popular opinion and tradition has it, that all great discoveries have been made by mere chance. To the same cause is attributed the success or failure of human undertakings of whatsoever kind. Such is this mania for attributing things to chance that some men, seemingly of sane minds on other points, have come to regard the universe and all its belongings, the product of chance.

This imbecile notion about chance, fate, luck, etc., is the cause of many failures in life. "All successful men have agreed in one thing," says Emerson,—"they were causationists. They believed that things went not by luck but by law. A belief in causality, or strict connection between every trifle and the principle of being, and, in consequence, belief in compensation, or, that nothing is got for nothing, characterizes all valuable minds, and must control every effort that is made by an industrious one." These stories about great discoveries, great fortunes, great names, being made by chance, are purely apocryphal. Persistency in effort and concentration of energy are the weapons with which the crown of success is to be obtained. When asked how he had been able to achieve his discoveries, Newton replied: "By always intending my mind." Yet, if we were to believe popular tradition, he discovered the law of gravitation by accidentally seeing an apple fall. "All the great captains," said Bonaparte, "have performed vast achievements by conforming with the rules of the art—by adjusting effort to obstacles." It is not given to many to go to bed unknown and wake up famous. A man usually reaps what he sows, nothing more, nothing less, and well has Hafiz said: "On the neck of the