

men who, however much they would desire, could not possibly give to it the time and faithful practice it deserves, since their regular course demanded their whole attention. While those who take honours receive an honor certificate, those who take Elocution, though working equally as hard, receive no such reward. A man must study his honours or miss his certificate. Under the present arrangement he has no such incentive to expend effort on Elocution. Moreover the course has been upon the worst financial basis of any study in all the curriculum. Again the course has been misjudged and misunderstood as to what it undertakes to do. It does not agree to straighten fingers crippled by base ball, nor to make muscles of iron flexible as elastic, nor to make a man, naturally the personification of awkwardness, as graceful as a gazelle, nor does it furnish a man with lungs, and voice, and presence, and brains, who has none of these things at the start. A man, who has been in the past in blissful ignorance of the science and art of expression, but who has studied Elocution fifteen minutes a week outside of his class work when he was too tired or sleepy to do anything else, gets up to read in public. Having "*taken Elocution*" he is (most inconsistently and unjustly) expected to read as well as a professional. If he fails to do so the verdict of the general audience will be that "Elocution is no good." Now, no student because he has taken the classical course is expected to read Greek as fluently as does his professor, nor even so fluently as he himself can read English. Then why judge by a different rule these two exactly similar cases? Such inconsistency and unfairness can only be the result of prejudice or misconception. In charity we accept the latter as its cause. We believe that the man who intelligently and faithfully gives time and hard work to the study of Elocution will receive as much benefit intellectually, as from equal time and work upon any other subject, and far more physically. It is notorious however that under the present system no man can possibly give such time and study to this work, and therefore, to the extent of his loss, is he suffering an injustice.

That the time for a change has come, is evident. We hope that the study of Elocution will this year be made a part of the regular college curriculum having the instructor appointed by the governors and paid a stated salary from the funds of the College.

Be the action of the authorities what it may, one thing is certain, future Acadia students *must* have at least *equal* advantages in this department, with those who in the past four years have been fortunate enough to receive the instructions of Mr. Shaw.

THERE is an old saying that goes something like this "Music hath charms to soothe the savage, melt a rock or split a cabbage." This may be true of Music, but there is a lot of *Composition* usually passed off labelled the "the genuine article," which has a tendency to make one feel rather savage toward the performer who is quite unconscious of the effect upon his hearers. He is doing his best by way of entertaining those who listen to him, and if we take the *will* for the *deed* no blame can be attached to him. It is not so much his fault as his misfortune that he is not more successful. He has never had any vocal training and consequently can only serve up the treat for his guests in the crude state. Nature may do a great deal for an individual, but if she has been sparing in her gifts we cannot expect much, as to quality, from either a trained or untrained voice. We are now supposing the individual has the ability to sing and needs only the calling into action of these uneducated energies. In the average country place the facilities for acquiring a musical education are extremely limited, if any at all can be had, the only opportunities for cultivating the voice being in the blacksmith's shop or some other general resort for the congregating of the crowd. The sentiment of the music to which they have access is neither for edification nor instruction, the chief object to be attained is to elicit the applause of the rabble without the slightest regard for self-improvement. The stripling wishes to attract attention and to this end accommodates himself to the necessity of singing out-doors, thus ruining his chances of being able to retain even the lowest plane as a singer. It is surprising also to note the numbers of city lads who are unable to make the proper use of this most enviable gift although their advantages are far in advance of the former class. What a pleasure it is to sit and listen to a good singer or instrumental performer! How the blues vanish before the enlivening and uplifting strains of music! On the other hand how uncomfortable one feels under the infliction and torture of a piece of