

# QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL.

VOL. XVI.

KINGSTON, CANADA, MAR. 4th, 1889.

No. 7.

## \* Queen's College Journal \*

Published by the ALMA MATER SOCIETY of Queen's University in TWELVE FORTNIGHTLY NUMBERS during the Academic year.

C. J. CAMERON, M.A., - *Editor in Chief.*  
H. A. LAVELL, B.A., - *Managing Editor.*

### STAFF:

W. J. PATTERSON, B.A.	M. MCKENZIE, B.A.
JOHN FINDLAY, M.A.	DONALD G. MCPHAIL, '89.
O. L. KILBORN, B.A.	JOHN SHARPE, '89.
A. GANDIER (Med.)	J. W. MUIRHEAD, '89.
E. S. GRIFFIN, '89.	DAN'L STRACHAN, '89.
A. G. HAY, '89.	A. BETHUNE, '90.
JAS. BINNIE, '89.	JOHN BELL, '90.
N. CARMICHAEL, '90.	G. J. NEISH (Med.)
T. H. FARRELL, '89, <i>Secretary-Treasurer.</i>	

The annual subscription is \$1.00, payable before the end of January.

All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 1104, Kingston, Ont.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to the Managing Editor.

THE *Presbyterian Review* of the 14th inst. publishes a cut and life of the Rev. John McNeill, called by his admirers "The Scottish Spurgeon." Born in 1854, Mr. McNeill is now about 35 years of age—in the very dawn of life. And yet his fame is filling the earth. He has been preaching for scarcely three years, and is to-day one of the three or four greatest preachers in Great Britain. There is some food for thought here for the gentry who are eternally crying up to us the non-essentiality of pulpit power. It may be answered that we cannot all be McNeills or Spurgeons—*nascitur, non fit orator*. There may be some truth in this if properly taken. But the difficulty is that men, instead of testing themselves to see how much bearing it has on their own particular case, are too apt to assume that they know by intuition all the undeveloped capacities of their being. It is surely a late day to remind our students of the Athenian stutterer whose name has been to all peoples and for twenty centuries a synonym for eloquence.

It was genius, we say, that inspired him and roused his dormant faculties to life. Probably it was. But while we believe that no great man ever existed who lacked some inner presagement of the future that lay before him, we also believe that it was only in the attempt to realize his dreams that the full vision of its possibilities burst upon him. And certainly, while our students are so ready to fold their hands idly and make no effort to develop their powers in this line, they will not find tongues of fire falling upon them from heaven to gift them with the eloquence of the giants of the past. But we rejoice at Mr. McNeill's success, not only because it confirms our own views of the position which the pulpit should and must occupy in the Church, but also because it affords yet another example in our own day of the power of resolution. It is Montesquien, we think, who says—

*"c'est des difficultes que naissent les miracles,"*

And certainly, after looking up Mr. McNeill's record, we can scarcely refrain from agreeing with him. Some twelve years ago he was a conductor on a Scotch railroad—to-day he stands as the accredited messenger of God to the most cultured congregation of the most exclusive people on earth. If this isn't a nineteenth century miracle, will some one please.

\* \* \*

To come now to a practical application of all this. How may our students who have in view the ministry best develop the speaking power which, when supported by a well-trained mind, becomes such a force in the Church and in the world? Of course every college meeting in which they take part is a help to them. But, above everything else, the Alma Mater Society affords the best opportunities for systematic development in this line. Recognizing the supreme importance of this society in the development of our students, we have for seven years fought for a constitution which would enable us to carry on its debates and business along the lines which obtain in all properly constituted deliberative assemblies. To quote a French favorite—

"All things come to him who knows how to wait for them,"

and we have lived to introduce at last the constitution for which we labored so long. The new order of things will put every man who enters the Alma Mater upon an equal footing. All of its deliberations hereafter must be carried on upon the basis of Cushing's Manual of Parlia-