

WE regret to announce the serious illness of Miss Baker, Preceptress of Alexandra College. At last accounts she was recovering, and expects soon to be able to attend to her duties in the College.

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#### THE STUDY OF THE LAW.

THE word "Law" is a monosyllable pregnant with significance, which ought to be distinctly present to the mind of every one called upon to comprehend it.

The Law is that by which Civil Society is "compactly built together" and sustained in existence, overpowering the many elements of our fallen nature, with heaven-born energy converting the savage into the citizen, making the wilderness to bloom and blossom as the rose, redolent of the balmy air of peace and order, and surrounding its confines with impregnable bulwarks against brute force and arbitrary will. These results are worked out by a complicated and artificial system of jurisprudence, and it is to the study of this noble and wondrous system that we wish to draw your attention, and more particularly the attention of the students who intend joining the plethoric ranks of the legal profession.

The principles of the Law are "that we should live reputably;" "should hurt nobody;" and "render to every one his dues." To an un instructed or careless person the whole legal system appears "a mighty maze without a plan," and it is to the unravelling of this seemingly unsightly conglomeration of arbitrary rules, and their reduction to these three simple principles, that the student has to devote his life's energies. What steps are marked out as necessary for those who wish to pursue the study, are found by a perusal of the works of venerated and learned authorities. In these he will learn of the growth and nature of Law; here he finds that all human laws depend and are founded upon the laws of Nature and Revelation; that Revealed Law is of infinitely more authenticity than the moral system framed by ethical writers and called Natural Law; and, making this the starting point, he can trace the origin of Municipal Law, the study of which he may make a life's work. He finds in his examination that man was formed for society, and is not capable of living alone; and how in early times, from one great society, they separated and formed many states and nations, having commercial inter-

course, which were controlled by laws naturally springing up, and known as the "Law of Nations." Blackstone informs us that "municipal law is a rule of civil conduct prescribed by the Supreme Power in the State." The student is led to examine into the meaning of this definition, and this enquiry brings him to, and entangles him in, the very midst of the legal problems and studies of the present.

He soon becomes familiar with tort and contract, equity and Common Law, and all other divisions of national law. This, with the practice accompanying it, is the province of the student-at-law.

The principles are as old as the time of the primitive Britons, and as mixed as the English language. It has been truly said, "As our language is so much richer our laws are the more complete." But years of study and application must be his who would delineate truly the changes noting the different periods, with the Romans, Picts, Danes and Normans—from the issue of Liber Judicialis of Alfred to the Judicature Act of 1881. The intellectual powers of the student are exercised to their greatest tension as he follows the development from the primary division of *lex scripta* or *lex non scripta*, and in pondering over the movements and evidences of our legal customs as contained in an infinite number of records and books of reports. Those who are outside the ranks are puzzled at the success of pettifoggers noted for their ignorance and trickery. Similar frauds are found in every profession and business; but a man is all the more despicable, if, in this noble profession, he degrades himself to a veritable thief, by taking advantage of the sacred privileges of the profession to gain improper emoluments. Here study is essential to success. To successfully encounter such men, one must be armed with legal knowledge, linked with honesty of purpose.

I have taken full advantage of the space allotted to me in this, the first issue of the ASTRUM, which has the best wishes of all ever connected with the College.

— J. A. F.

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A farmer who had some cider to sell was pricing teas and found that they had risen several cents a pound. "What's made tea riz?" said he. "Scarcity of tea-chests," said the merchant. However, he agreed to take some, to be paid for in cider. "How much's your cider?" asked the merchant. "Twenty cents." "Twenty cents!" cried the merchant; "what are you asking such a price as that for?" "'Cause bungholes is scarce," replied the farmer.—*Ex.*