

Acadia has started upon a most favorable year. The Freshman Class which is sometimes the gauge of a College's prosperity is as large as any of the preceding years. The Football Team, another indication, perhaps more unmistakable, is also as strong as those of other times. Among the many changes the absence of the president from the office of the presidency is much regretted, but as Dr. Sawyer still retains his chair of Psychology and Metaphysics and is chairman of the Board the loss is to a great degree compensated. The other members of the Faculty are in their familiar places, each fulfilling his duties as enthusiastically as of yore. The curriculum, always a synonym of good scholarship, is now still more so by reason of important additions and arrangements. Chemistry hitherto a subject of the Sophomore course has been added to the Freshmen studies, thus giving members of the three upper classes the advantage of having all the principal foundations laid at the commencement of their educational career. Another needful change was the alteration of the optional system. Previous to this reform students proficient or deficient in either literary or scientific attainments could choose his electives to suit his convenience. Under the new *regime*, however, both courses must be properly represented. The other institutions—the Academy and Seminary also share in the prosperity of the College. In the former, several new teachers have been added to the already efficient staff, thus making a *coterie* of instructors worthy of the highest praise. The new building is of course full, while many of the rooms in the old wing have occupants. The Academy, which with the Seminary has been open a month, has fairly settled down to a good year's work. All parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are represented in the resident pupils, and the showing of the first "Excelsior List" does great credit to the students and teachers. Mr Oakes is still in his familiar place, greatly to the pleasure of those who at one time or other have been inmates of the "Home," and who can always testify to his ability as an instructor and his carefulness as a Principal.

For any personal references to the members of the Class of '96,
see the De Alumnis.

Among the many indications of a prosperous institution is the "Students Hand Book" issued by the Young Men's Christian Association for the year '96 and '97.