

The Portfolio.

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THE PORTFOLIO, HAMILTON, ONT.

We invite contributions and correspondence from the Alumnae and
former students.

HAVE we not heard the question whispered, "What ails the seniors lately, they look so grave and preoccupied?— every sentence speaks business, every look conveys a world of meaning, they assemble in groups of twos and threes and talk mysteriously in under tones?" Yes, my sisters in tribulation, this very important subject that has engrossed the attention of all for the past three weeks, the very thought of which has followed us like our shadows, haunted us like the ghost in Hamlet, is no less than those dreadful examinations. Now that the struggle is over, the victory won, we can look back with something of composure over the long days of suspense. Moral science I am afraid troubled the seniors far more when viewed in the light of the coming trial than in that of conscience. The juniors studying History talked apparently with the greatest delight of wars, and rumors of wars, while those in Philosophy learnedly discussed cause and effect. Physics and Metaphysics were at everyone's finger tips, while a circle hemmed in those studying Geometry and Trigonometry, even the Logicians so far forgot themselves as to murmur audibly "*Barbara, Celarent Darii Ferio*," etc. Patience, however, was rewarded, and most of the students have left for the holidays with the "well done" of their teachers still ringing in their ears.

THE following letter has been received by our Principal, Dr. Burns. We publish it, as being of interest to both students and friends of the College:—

OTTAWA, Dec. 11th, 1879.

SIR,—His Excellency, the Governor General, having decided, on the recommendation of the Provincial Authorities, to present a Silver Medal, to be competed for by the pupils of the Wesleyan Female College, Hamilton. I am commanded to request you to be good enough to forward to me for His Excellency's consideration such suggestions as to the course of study and conditions of competition for this medal, as will, in your opinion, best promote the cause of education at the establishment under your supervision.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

F. de WINTON,

Major R. A., Governor General's Secretary.

The Principal W. F. College, Hamilton.

THE other day, while looking over some old copies of exchanges, only a month or so old, however, we came across the following sentence:—"our five month's abstinence from slinging of editorial ink has slightly rusted us." We gave it a glance, and passed on, but some mental jar, as it were, awakened the dormant spirit of criticism and recalled us to the spot. We again took up the paper, and read the sentence over more carefully, but a second reading instead of setting them at rest, confirmed our doubts, and brought to light new difficulties. We had recourse to a particular analysis. "Abstinence from slinging of ink" is evidently the subject affirmed of the verb "rust," but, does abstinence rust? Again, abstinence implies self denial, or the refraining from something which gives pleasure; accordingly substituting, the sentence would read thus, "the refraining from slinging of editorial ink has slightly rusted us." Then, neither the "abstinence" or the act of "slinging" being the cause, it is possible that the ink may have occasioned the corrosion. Now, unless the ink be aniline colored or the pen a gold