

Contributed.

THE CANADIAN FLAG.

ABOUT a year ago, a movement was begun in Ontario to place our Canadian Flag on the public school buildings. For a time, the movement seemed to subside, but the impression made remained. The movement itself was but one result of a grand patriotic awakening, that has taken place throughout the whole Dominion within the last few years. Public meetings are addressed in eloquent, patriotic speeches, and teachers are beginning to discuss how patriotism may best be developed in our public schools. Lately the *Toronto Empire* has offered the prize of a large Canadian flag to the school in each county of Ontario, that sends in the best essay on the patriotic influence of hoisting the Canadian flag on public school buildings. It now calls on the leading newspapers of the other provinces to follow its example in respect to their own provinces. In some cases the local boards have themselves secured the flag for their public schools. By this action lessons of patriotism will be instilled into the youthful minds that they will not soon forget.

The movement, though now more active in Ontario, will soon extend to Nova Scotia. Considering this fact I thought: "Should Acadia in this be behind the common schools?" The students, who of all college students are most loyal to their college should not be behind in loyalty to their native land; and this object lesson in patriotism is not less needed by those who ought to be the leaders of our country's advance, than by those who form the rank and file of her people. The Athenæum Society ought to furnish flags for the College, Chipman Hall and the New Gymnasium. A commencement, at least, should be made by the Athenæum, and the Academy and Seminary might catch the spirit of this movement in which in the province, Acadia should be the leader.

The educative value of the national flag is not unproved in England, France or Germany, and with our American cousins, to their credit be it said, the national flag on the public school buildings is not uncommon. The Canadian flag is the Union Jack with the Canadian emblems on the right hand lower corner. What memories these symbols awaken in even the dullest soul! Canada and Britain; a nation whose history is one bead-roll of glorious names and a nationality whose record is bright with prosperity and untarnished honor! We look on the flag and the names of Wolfe, Nelson, Hampden, Eliot, Wellington, Brock, Langton, Shakspeare and Milton stand

with others of their countrymen on the roll of undying fame. Not less noble were the Barons of the Great Charter, and the list of patriot statesmen who upheld England's freedom through troublous times, nor our fathers who rest in patriot's graves at Lundy's Lane and Chrysler's Farm, and who laid well the foundation of our present prosperity amid much hardships. We read our history into that of the greatest nation the world has ever seen. British honour, British courage and British justice have made most splendid achievements. We too will make our name illustrious, and it seems to me that this flag on our college buildings would be to each student an epitome of the bright deeds, names, and examples of the past, and our hopes for an even more splendid future. But it would touch the feelings and motives in a way that cannot be measured. Nature has given us a splendid heritage, and the evidences of success and failure among our beautiful farms and in our varied industries shew us plainly that what we need most is more patriotism and more faith in this Canada of ours.

Exchanges.

To all our Exchanges, old and new, we heartily wish A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The *Theologue* has again made its appearance. Its editorials are bright and energetic.

The *Argosy* sailed out last month with a new suit of sails and some changes in the rigging. The design is most beautiful. Besides cuts of the faculty, it contains engravings of distinguished graduates.

The *Presbyterian College Journal* is one of our most valued exchanges. Its very appearance betokens the solidity which the reader is sure to find within. The *Journal* is decidedly missionary in its tendencies, as the French department clearly indicates.

The Seminary *Bema* keeps up the record of a live and spicy journal. The Seminary evidently pays more than a little attention to the study of art.

The *Inter-Collegian* of December contains an interesting article from the pen of J. R. Mott, entitled, "A Week in the Maritime Provinces." No paper urges with sounder argument the introduction of the English Bible into the College curriculum than does the *Inter-Collegian*.

The *Harvard Monthly* in an editorial on "Four Years in Three," claims, from statistics covering the space of ten years, that there is an increasing tendency for students to finish the course in less than the regular time. "If," says the writer, "men who do not care for study can carry two courses, notwithstanding their devotion to clubs and athletics, and if the three-year men can win high rank and outside distinctions, it cannot be difficult for any serious student to complete the four years' work in three."