

### *Literary Society.*

#### MARCH 1ST.

The much abused question as to whether the much abused Queen Elizabeth was justified in putting to death the much abused Mary, Queen of Scots was discussed for the benefit of the Literary Society on March 1st, by Mr. Matheson and Miss McKenzie on the one side and Miss Rutherford and Mr. McEwen on the other. The appeals made by both parties were most eloquent, those of Queen Mary's supporters being particularly flowery and betraying an assiduous cultivation of the emotions. They failed, however, to move the judges who gave their decision in favor of Miss McKenzie and Mr. Matheson. A piano solo by Miss Patterson, a reading by Mr. Carpenter, and a vocal solo by Miss Baxter added zest to the weighty historical matter of the debate. The critic, Miss Bradley, failed to visit a just condemnation on certain individuals on the masculine side of the audience, whose remarkable antics in disturbing the furniture and incidentally also the more peacefully disposed auditors, materially detracted from the otherwise successful afternoon's entertainment.

#### MARCH 8TH.

At the meeting on March 8th, a lively discussion over the desirability and possible advantages of a closer union among teachers was provoked by a motion dealing with the question introduced by Messrs. Webster and Rea. A great many opinions and ideas that were not opinions were expressed on the point and beside the point. Finally the motion was carried and the following committee of "Ways and Means" appointed: Messrs. Webster, Rea, Barnes and Gunn, and Misses Merritt, Guest, Bollert and Timberlake. The Vice President, Miss McKay, occupied the chair during the presentation of the programme, the main feature of which was an able and

valuable paper on "Evolution," read by Mr. W. H. Thompson. A few brief discussions on the topic of the essay and two musical numbers, a solo by Mr. Newcombe, and a duet by Misses Baxter and Merritt, brought round once more the hour for closing.

#### MARCH 15TH.

The Executive of the Society arranged for this afternoon a "Canadian Meeting," which, being interpreted, proved to be a meeting, the programme of which dealt solely with Canadian literature and Canadian writers. The attendance was not as large as is customary, owing, perhaps, to the stress of work that bears upon the faithful student with the approach of the dread exam. Those, however, who gave of their valuable time to attend the meeting, were fully repaid. Four excellent papers were given, excellent both from the standpoint of "interest" and that of "acquired knowledge." Mr. Shepherd's paper on Canadian writers was a comprehensive treatise on that side of our national progress, and opened the eyes of many to the fact that Canada, great in natural wealth, possesses also great possibilities in the sphere of literature and art. The sketches of the life and work of Chas. G. D. Roberts by Mr. Simpson and of Clive Phillips Wolley by Mr. Miller, were also very good, and were much enlivened by well chosen selections from the respective writers they dealt with. Miss Guest, in a talk on "Canadian Life as Treated by Canadian Writers" read illustrative extracts from "Sam Slick, Clockmaker," Gilbert Parker, Joanna E. Wood and others, which very effectually exemplified the style of workmanship and subject matter of these writers and formed at the same time an entertaining diversion. When the ladies' chorus, Mr. Pirie and Mr. Welsh had contributed of their musical talent, the programme was left to the mercy of Miss Dorrington who very ably and pertinently criticized its main features to the edification of all.