

The Owl,

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The Students of the University of Ottawa.

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THE OWL is the journal of the students of the University of Ottawa. Its object is to aid the students in their literary development, to chronicle their doings in and out of class, and to unite more closely the students of the past and present to their Alma Mater.

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TO KIND FRIENDS.

Our frontis-piece portrays a greeting which the OWL sincerely assures its readers, it addresses to them in no spirit of blind obedience to time-honored custom. The editors are pleased indeed to have this occasion to tender a small return, in good wishes, for the loyal support and encouragement which they have met with on all sides during the past few months. Long may our College journal find its readers and contributors as generous as those to whom we wish: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

ELOCUTION.

At present a decided movement is on foot for the furtherance of elocution in American universities. This step is one in the right direction, and deserves commendation. Manifold are the advantages to be had from an elocution class properly conducted. Not only does such a class afford valuable means for elocutionary development, but it also promotes thought, imparts to the student a mastery of words, develops and sharpens his powers of literary criticism, and furnishes him with not a few useful hints as to how he is to master difficult studies. The stepping-stone to all knowledge is intelligent reading. Every applicant for admission to a university is supposed to know how to read correctly, but the fact is, not more than one out of ten has mastered this art before entering college. Intelligent reading implies a thorough knowledge of the vocabulary of the language in which one reads. It supposes even something more—power on the part of the reader to penetrate an author's mind and lay firm hold to the thought thereof. Not until the student has mastered the art of reading can he relish serious studies. And the class in which this art is to be acquired in its perfection is that of Elocution. There, if he who is speaking does not show a just apprehension of the meaning of a sentence, he is at once stopped by his professor and furnished with a better expression of its sense. There the student's powers of apprehension and attention are exercised and he is obliged to discriminate shades of meaning before he can express them by inflection of the voice. Words are there explained and analysed, the different shades of meaning which words have in different connections are commented upon, the style and plot of the poem or oration at issue are criticized—in a word, an elocution class under prope