

able guilt of his greener comrade will also show him that even one of such ripe wisdom and advanced scholarship as My Lord himself is nevertheless somewhat unqualified for a judge, and not yet invested with the authority of an executioner.

**O**BERLIN College is just now excited over its Oratorical Contest. How would it do to start something of the kind among the maritime province college students? We think the idea not a bad one, and do not see why it would not be quite possible. Certainly there are arguments in its favour. It would stimulate study in the department of English to an extent which has not perhaps been attained hitherto. The study of Rhetoric, however excellent it may be in itself, is not an object of special regard with many college students, but, having an object of this kind in view, zest would be added through the element of utility thereby connected. Logic would be put in direct and important use. Authors would be studied with an eye not merely to their power of pleasing, plot interest, character development, but for the cultivation of style, method, imagination, language, etc. But the greatest benefit which would grow from such a principle would be the cultivation of the art of public speaking. It would lay the foundation for larger and more extended efforts in broader capacities. No person doubts the usefulness of such early training. Indeed, it is a question whether there is a branch of college work deserving of more consideration than that of preparation in a practical way for platform work. A student is expected, after graduation, to be a kind of walking encyclopædia, master of all branches of study, versed in everything, ready to write an essay, criticize an author, navigate a ship, build a railroad, preach a sermon, expound the law, drive a horse, and black a boot. Nothing will floor him quicker than a request for a speech. He may have the knowledge, the ability, every requisite except the getting up and making it; but this, ten chances to one, he can't do decently. And why? Because he never had the practice, the experience. He feels silly, but, after all, it is very often not his fault. It is his misfortune. By commencing, on the opening of his college career, a systematic course of study, and occasional drill in the practice of speaking itself, this trouble would in a large measure be obviated. He would come out, if not a finished orator, at least no

mere novice in the art of speaking, and quite prepared to express his thoughts on any public question in which he was at all conversant. If all did not take advantage of the opportunity, many would be induced so to do, and we are inclined to think all would have a try. If no pecuniary inducements were offered by the authorities, they would probably offer no objection, providing it could be satisfactorily arranged. Expenses could be defrayed by admission fees to the contest. If an objection should be raised on the ground that an undue allowance of time would be given to this particular subject, to the neglect of other studies, it could easily be obviated by restricting competitors to such as made a certain fair per cent. in all branches. We commend the matter to the thoughts of students, the consideration of authorities, and notice of *Exchanges*.

**W**E gladly give space in this issue of the *ATHENÆUM* to the letter of W. F. Parker, B.A., of Halifax, an old graduate of the college, and an enthusiastic worker in Acadia's interests. Both the letter itself and the annexed circulars should be read by every person, graduate, friend, or student who wishes to see Acadia keep her place in the proud front of Canadian institutions of learning.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editors of the "Acadia Athenæum":—*

Sirs,—The following Circulars addressed, one to the membership of the Alumni Society, the other to graduates and past students who are not members, will show a portion of the work which the Society has in hand for the present year.

With a view to affording greater financial support to Acadia College at this time when money is so urgently required, the Alumni Society is making a special effort to increase its membership (and by so doing to increase its revenue) and to raise among its members a Jubilee Offering or contribution of five hundred dollars toward the salary of the Professor of the new chair of Modern Languages for the academic year 1887-88.

The collection of this \$500 will not affect the raising of the \$50,000 to be added to the Endowment Fund. The Alumni are contributing to both objects.