

# University Gazette,

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## Editors for 1877-78.

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Wednesday, the thirteenth of February next, is, we believe, the day on which His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin is expected to visit McGill University. The students are on the *qui vive*. Meetings have been held, and committees appointed to lay down a line of conduct for the undergraduates on that great occasion. The undergraduates in medicine, are, it is needless to say, the movers in the matter. The undergraduates in law lag, as usual, in the rear. The undergraduates in arts occupy an intermediate position. They have, we believe, done something. Nothing is what the law students have done. They will, we hope, waken from the lethargy in which they have allowed themselves to lie so long, in time to do something to redeem themselves from the stain of apathy with which they are so often charged, and to which they seem so little desirous of flying a negative plea. The distinguished nobleman who is on that occasion to honor the University by his presence, deserves all the honor which graduates, undergraduates, and governors can do him. His engaging manners, his generous condescension, and his keen sense of justice, have made him, perhaps, the most popular Governor by whom Her Majesty was ever represented in Canada; while his "Letters from High Latitudes" give him a creditable rank among the literary men of the age, and no more eloquent passages appear in the rhetorical literature, not only of Canada, but even of England, of Ireland and of Scotland, than many which may be found in the published speeches of the Earl of Dufferin. A speech which he delivered in Dublin, before he came to this country, contains an allegorical image of Canada, which we have never seen surpassed. All the undergraduates

will, we earnestly hope, deem it their duty to give *clat* to the occasion by their presence, and by the dignity of their demeanor to illustrate a University to which they owe, in a great degree, the brightness of their prospects, and which may, on some future occasion, be doing them an equal honor.

A step has been taken in the right direction by the Clinical Professors, in making a change in the manner of appointing the Clinical Clerks. Up to the present time it has been the custom to appoint those who first applied and as a result, the positions were usually filled at least a year beforehand. Under the new system merit is to be the ruling power. The appointments will not be made until after the spring examinations, when the vacancies will be offered to those who have passed their Primaries in the order of their standing. The same objection may be raised against this as against the old system; it does not provide for all the students obtaining a share of this valuable part of their education, while many of the successful ones find their term longer than they wish for and perform their duties in an indifferent manner. However, it is certainly an improvement, and will prove an incentive to many to pass a better Primary examination, who otherwise would be satisfied simply to get through; and the old cry of favoritism against the Professors will no longer be heard.

"We are not yet vanquished" are the words with which the *Queen's College Journal* closes the article in which, in its last number, it noticed the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE. Our Kingston contemporary may rest well assured that we never entertained the ambition of increasing our garland by snatching a laurel from its brow. Our object in aiming at it a series of literary arrows was simply to remind it that, if comparisons are odious, inuendoes are still more offensive; and that the critic has a jaundiced eye, who, overlooking the merits of a periodical which he is attempting to criticise, gives prominence to those points alone which provoke disapprobation. Our contemporary's criticism was ungenerous because it was unjust; unwise because it was unwitty; and unmanly because it simply suggested a fault which it wanted the boldness to state. We began our career by court- ing the kindness of all our contemporaries, and to the *Queen's College Journal* we extended a cordial welcome, our recompense for which was, in the first