

## ◆DIVINITY HALL.◆

### OUR VISITORS.

WE all enjoyed very much the visit of the Knox boys amongst us. At the Sabbath morning Bible Class, Dec. 9th, Messrs. Smith and Jaffrey spoke with great enthusiasm regarding the progress made so far towards forming a Canadian Missionary Alliance among college students. New interest has been kindled in the hearts of many of our students by those earnest practical talks. As Mr. Smith attended the last Missionary Convention held at Hartford, Conn., he was able to give a brief account of the various topics discussed there. At the Gospel meeting in the evening conducted by the University Y. M. C. A. in the City Hall, Messrs. McNair, Rowand and Smith gave earnest, stirring gospel addresses that were productive of much good. We trust the warm friendships made or revived will tend to bind the students of Knox and Queen's more closely than ever in Christian love and sympathy.

### MAKE POINTS.

CLEARNESS is a quality of style which every writer and speaker must possess before he can expect to win distinction. "Make points" is the laconic advice of a veteran Professor to his students after examining their essays. Obscurity and ambiguity of thought and expression are observable on all sides. Listen to the debates in a College Society and you are sure to be distressed by the long winded aimless harangue of some youthful aspirant to the bar or the pulpit. Then too many sermons are but stupendous illustrations of "saying nothing in a great many words." This article is not intended for a discussion upon homiletics, yet it must be painfully apparent to all, that sermons and addresses containing excellent thoughts fall fruitlessly upon the hearers from the lack of point and arrangement. In the homely words of a critical rustic—"they resemble a pot full of goodness poured over the heads of the people." In a church court not long ago two ministers spoke. The first gave an address of half an hour, containing here and there a good thought but without any definite connection. He staggered aimlessly along and ere the sound of his voice had died out in the hall his thoughts had vanished from the minds of his hearers. Though in many respects a clever man his address was declared on all hands a failure. The second arose to speak and attention began to awaken in the audience. Why? Simply because one point after another was laid down, explained and emphasized in such a way that they could not be forgotten. Thus he said more, that could be remembered and carried away by the audience in ten minutes, than his predecessor could have said in as many hours. Good people reproach themselves often because they have not remembered more of the morning's sermon whereas in most cases the reproach should be upon the minister. Of course there is danger of an evil in the opposite direction—arising from an excessive division. An address like the beast of the prophetic vision—with seven heads and ten horns—is certainly to be deprecated. The evil however does not consist in

having divisions and points but in having so many; even too much sugar sickens. One point well enforced and illustrated is infinitely more profitable and edifying than a dozen badly arranged and imperfectly explained. This evil can only be remedied by earnest practice and the study of good models. Before speaking in public the student should write down, say, one thing which he wishes to present. Then he must ask himself the question—Is this thought so clearly expressed that no one will misunderstand it? If not let it be rewritten again and again until this result is attained. Such a method may involve trouble at first, but surely it pays. So very great is the influence of a clear, forcible speaker that the result attained will amply reward any amount of trouble.

## ◆COLLEGE SOCIETIES.◆

### ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

THE first meeting of the Alma Mater Society after the election of the new officers, was naturally one which attracted more than usual attention. There was a very large attendance of students, some of the Knox foot-ball players being also present.

There was not a great deal of business to transact, but what little there was, was rather out of the usual routine. After the committee had been instructed to hold an entertainment on the evening of the 14th inst., the secretary was instructed to correspond with the agents of the different railroads with a view to the procuring of the usual reduced rates for the Xmas holidays.

Some JOURNAL matters were then transacted. After the election of Mr. J. R. Shannon to the staff and a spirited discussion started by a gentleman who considered himself unconstitutionally dealt with by the staff, the resignation of Mr. McLachlan, as Managing Editor, was taken up. The Society by an almost unanimous vote, (only one gentleman voting nay) requested Mr. McLachlan to withdraw his resignation which, after some persuasion, he did for the time being.

It was decided to discuss the question, as to whether the Medical or the Clerical profession had done the more good in the world, at the next meeting. The debate of the evening was dispensed with in order that the members might attend to their duties of hospitality towards their visitors from Knox.

### GLEE CLUB.

THE annual meeting of the Glee Club was held at Mr. Heath's residence, on the evening of the 10th inst. After the discussion of several minor business matters, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Hon. President—R. S. Anglin, M.D., Springfield, Neb.  
President—T. Cumberland.  
Vice-President—J. V. Anglin, B.A.  
Secretary-Treasurer—Geo. F. Henderson.  
Instructor—F. C. Heath, B.A.  
Committee—Messrs Shannon, Mundell and Cornett.

The Glee Club sang at a Bazaar in the Victoria Hall a short time ago, and scored a decided success. Several invitations have already been received for concerts to be held through the winter.

### Y. M. C. A.

THE above Association held its regular business meeting on the morning of the 15th inst.

The President read a communication from the Prince-