

the French population in Quebec. Stirring vicissitudes and varied experiences have fallen to the lot of all. Mud of all degrees of tenacity oftentimes impeded the progress of the young preacher in his frantic endeavors to be "there" on time. Mosquitoes, black-flies, and other voracious members of the insect tribe have preyed upon the flesh and blood of the patient student, as beneath the shelter of some spreading tree he strove to break up some passage in true Homiletical style. Time and again he has formulated plans to escape the destructive attacks of some carnivorous specimens of the canine family. He has adopted all sorts of devices, to wit, roaring, hammering the desk, and sinking the voice to a sepulchral whisper, in order to awaken those members of the *genus homo*, who have relapsed into peaceful slumbers during the elaboration of head No. 1. Perchance in his wanderings he may have strolled into the depths of the primeval forest, and come out at a point entirely foreign to any preconceived design on his part. He has approached with solemn awe and much uncertainty the friendly domicile of some cranky sceptical genius, who has audibly expressed his determination to annihilate any member of the preacher fraternity who ventures to draw near. The Student has borne with infinite patience the tides of wrath which have descended upon him for trying to impress upon the minds of some knowing old citizens a few new-fangled notions, such as—the earth moves, it is round; the six creation days might have been periods of time. He has become accustomed to the disappearance of the urchin contingent who, at his approach, have been wont to seek the shady retreats of the barn and hay-stack. Cat-fights, by their frequent recurrence, soon fail to arouse him from dreamy slumber, and the most frantic wail, emanating from the larynx of a feline quadruped, only causes an increase of snoring. It is marvellous with what facility the representative of the Theological College adapts himself to harassing environment, and overcomes difficulties hitherto considered insurmountable. The Mission-field is to him an admirable training-school for future usefulness. He, to some extent, becomes acquainted with many phases of human nature. The realities of life begin to dawn upon him with increasing clearness. Calm reflection concerning the varied problems in practical life, that come under his notice, prevents him from entering the more active duties of the ministry: a mere novice. Judicious insight into the passions, perplexities, joys and sorrows that come rushing in upon the soul of man in varying tides, gradually quickens sympathetic thought and action. Energetic effort in the Mission-field, constant contact with the tempest and storm of practical life, impart breadth and strength to the character, as the oak is strengthened by the blasts of the hurricane, which only fasten its roots deeper and deeper in its stony bed.

WE publish on page 12 the Student's Directory for the session 1883-84. From it we notice that the number of students connected with this College and attending lectures, is as follows: In Theology, 29; in Arts, 18, and in the Literary Department, 16; in all 74; or deducting 9 entered in two departments, we have a net total of 65. Besides these, two new students, at present engaged in teaching, expect to join our classes in January. Two of the former students (Mr. A. Scrimger, B.A., and Mr. A. E. Duncan, M.A., B.C.L.) are also engaged in teaching, and will be unable to attend lectures this

session, while Mr. J. C. Campbell has gone to California for his health, but expects to make his session in San Francisco, and return to Montreal next year. The number of new students, including those to come in January, is nineteen. All the students, except nine, board in the College. The beginning of the session is characterized by an unusual amount of enthusiasm.

OUR Senate is a progressive, as well as a learned body. It is about to make a new departure. Distinguished lecturers in the city and elsewhere have been engaged to discuss before citizens and students "Questions of the Day." The lectures, which are to be afterwards published in a volume, will be delivered on Sunday afternoons in the David Morrice Hall. The first will be given on the 28th instant at 3 o'clock, by the Rev. Dr. Stevenson, on "The Creed of the Agnostic." Then will follow "Evolution in Morals," "Atheism or Theism—Which?" "Science and Prayer," "The Morality of the Old Testament," &c. We are not favored with a complete list of subjects or lecturers, but judging from these, we would advise all to attend.

WE would remind the students of the old adage: "*Vive ut vivas*," and of its applicability to themselves in the matter of patronizing those who advertise through our columns. We are pleased to note the appreciation our paper receives as an advertising medium—an appreciation shown not only by a renewal of "spaces," but by an enlargement of both space and money. Let us help them that help us.

### Our Local Note Book.

MR. A. SCRINGER, B.A., is pedagoguing in St. Catharines. The Collegiate Institute in that city is second to none in Ontario, judging from the position taken by its graduates in Toronto and other universities, during the last five years; and in the addition of Mr. Scrimger to its staff we feel confident that it has secured services that cannot fail to conduce to a maintenance of its past reputation. Mr. Scrimger would have been Editor-in-Chief on our staff had he returned this session; but we are sure that he has the best wishes of all the students of the College in the work in which he is now engaged; and we look forward to his return to continue his studies in this place.

MANY of our students were surprised, on their return this fall, to notice the changed appearance of a lot on the other side of MacTavish Street. The work of erecting a new building for the Congregational College is advancing apace. It is expected that the opening services will be held next April, at the close of the session. The number of students connected with the College at present is nine, and the number of dormitories in the new building is eighteen. We have no doubt that, under the management of Dr. Stevenson, who was appointed Principal this summer, the number of students will soon be more than double, and that they will be joining us in the extension of residences before many years. The new building includes, in addition to the dormitories, a students' parlor and a lecture hall. We shall be glad to welcome our Congregational friends to MacTavish Street, and congratulate them in the comfortable heritage which ere long they will have.