

DALHOUSIE Gazette

AMERICA'S OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER

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A Disgraceful Exhibition

Wednesday evening the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society presented Shakespeare's immortal tragedy "Romeo and Juliet". Members of the Student Body were able to attend this meeting free, and a large number of them took advantage of the opportunity.

As usual a small minority did their best to spoil the show for the rest of the audience. With a tragedy like "Romeo and Juliet", in which much of the drama depends on suspense, it is not difficult to make the whole thing a farce and no particular skill is necessary for this, in fact the less brains the better.

It was said that foremost among those starting the disturbances were a group of juvenile highschool children and several over-enthusiastic first year King's students. This may or may not be so, but it is an undisputed fact that Dalhousie students were not loath to join in once somebody else had started a disturbance.

Acts of this kind are not only indicative of empty minds but lack of consideration. The actors do not mind it too much, anybody who has the courage to appear on the stage at Dalhousie has learned to expect the worst—but what about the rest of the audience?

Its revelation of the general level of the student mind is certainly not a good advertisement for the university, where people theoretically come to learn culture and broaden their minds. Every student should remember he is an advertisement of his university and should not behave in a manner to cast discredit on their college.

Wednesday night's performance was certainly not an encouraging sign as far as the general level of intelligence of the average student on the campus is concerned. Let us hope that the students observe more restraint at the performance of "The Mikado".

Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir:

Your editorial, "What Price Tradition", while aimed, I suspect, at a few individuals, was nonetheless derogatory of the Law Society. For the law students who were not at this meeting, and anyone who read the editorial, I trust that this letter will rectify an erroneous impression.

The last Law Society meeting WAS NOT a disgrace to the profession, or the Law school. It was a typical routine meeting. The fact that someone questioned the feasibility of having a "Mock Parliament" this year is as it should be. It offers a challenge to the participating students to make it more interesting and de-

March of Empire

"All things into the dust descend."

When we look at the state of the world of 1951 from the lofty pedestal of history it is difficult to attach proper significance to war or to peace on earth. Rather a surge of fatalism, bitterness and indifferent resignation is felt and so sorry is the tale that Time has told that belief in virtues and the nobility of the race, or valuation of morals and a creed of faith, are fast disappearing. We can only see the callousness, the sordidness of life. We can only see the sad parade of lust and greed that daily confronts us. Our daily existence is marked by the reports of suicide, rape, murder and violence. In short, there is no haven on earth from the chaos that exists and today's evil is but the memory of yesterday and the forecast of tomorrow.

In any point of history the lesson is the same: man's infirmities, his imperfection, has cast its impure reflection on his times. Men make history and it is but the tale of mistakes and fallacies. It is notable that the two thousand year record breaking period of peace that ancient Crete knew was due to its isolation. It could not have been possible if there had been a closely-knit family of nations at the time. Note also that the fabulous Roman Empire, because it comprised most of the world then known, at least gave relative peace to that world, simply because there was no power capable of withstanding its legions. Bearing out the point, the Tigers-Euphrates civilizations fell because of the neighboring power of Assyria. The inferior Aztec world fell to Cortez while Cortez's Spain fell to England. Then France conquered Europe. In America the Northern States defeated the South.

Behind all this rise and fall of Empire, lies a lesson we should not miss. First, recognize the cause of history: men and their greeds, their lusts, their passions. Next, notice that there has been nothing in history that is constant except its inconsistency. It may repeat itself but, no matter how great in scope the Empire is, or how powerful, the phases of history are merely transitory. They come, have their day and are gone, as does life itself. Then you must try to grasp the sirable. Furthermore, when we continue to carry it on merely because it is a tradition, we are then in a rut.

The Osgoode-Dalhousie debate was not dropped. An invitation was extended to them last term, and to date they have not replied. The meeting decided not to follow up with a reminder, as it was felt to be mutual to both societies to discontinue these debates. The cost of sending two men to debate is prohibitive.

After three years at the Law school, I am of the opinion that the law society meetings are conducted in a manner as good as, if not better, than any other society, or group, on the campus.

J. D. Wentzell, Pres.,
Dalhousie Law Society.

Equity

Now I am just a layman
And you're a lawyer wise
Your a very learned fellow
I can see it in your eyes.

Now I'm no legal wizard
I'm just a common man
I know you talk for a buck a thought
But I don't give a damn.

For there's something that has bothered me
In olden times, by gone
And that, sir, is the difference
The difference of right and wrong.
I've come to you with the problem
For they tell your knowledge is great
Tho' your price is high at a dollar a lie
I know you'll put me straight.

The Lawyer sat back and listened
Blew a smoke ring round and neat
He didn't like this client
But even lawyers must eat.
A moment of meditation
A second to wonder why
And then like a rat squeaking out of a trap
The Lawyer begins to reply.

"The answer is very simple, my friend,
It's as simple as A, B, C
You have a wife, I have a wife,
And we both have a family.
Now if I should steal your charming spouse
That would be right with me,
But if you ever stole mine, you rotten louse!
That would be wrong, you see.

For "Right" is only what you think it is,
What you think it ought to be
And there's no set code to the narrow road
It depends on your equity.
Now that we've settled your problem
There's a little matter of fees
And, by God, I swear that my rates are fair
Ten dollars if you please."

Gunboat
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vastness of it all. You could have been a horseman for Ghengis Khan or one of the 100,000 slaves who spent thirty years building a pyramid in Egypt, four thousand years ago. Against the horizon of Time our brief spans are truly brief, even as was the few centuries of Roman rule. Consider how brief the British Empire, as such has been. Against this, place the world wars and now the war in Korea. Are not these wars, then, little things? Does not this view reflect a futility, a hopelessness that is incomprehensible? Does it not emphasize the truth that only the strong survive? Worse, does it not suggest, that although our cities are built of concrete and steel, some future archaeologist will be examining the ruins of our Western world as just another phase of history?

Our world is neither the worst nor is it the best era that history has known; we are neither the beginning nor the end; we know hope, we know despair; we have nothing behind, with or before us; we are

not doomed and we are not saved. We are but the ones who would ordinarily live out the twentieth century. We are just another hour of Time; and above all we are men and as such, mark the present with a significance which but reflects a mistaken illusion of our own importance.

In this hour of darkness, in the face of life's futility, what then is there to do? Our minds are small but let us comprehend the coming of tomorrow selflessly, rather than lose ourselves in the maelstrom of today. Because we have been left a heritage of iron, must we leave one like it in our wake? It is not the probability of success of such a predilection that is important, it is the spirit that inspires it. For in such a spirit lies the hope and faith and virtue that creates a truly democratic strength and immortality that will at the most give us triumph over adversaries and in the least mark the dust of our times with a special splendour for the eye of unborn time to look upon.

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