

THE OLD BIRCHEN.

How dear to my heart are the scenes of my child-
hood,

When sad recollection presents them to view,
The orchards I robbed and the deep tangled wild-
wood,

Where first the sour sweets of the truant I knew.
The ice covered pond oh ! how oft I shot o'er it
When four o'clock came and the school was
dismissed ;

The thong of my father how often I bore it,
Though 'twas naught to the birch in the school-
master's fist.

The nicely trimmed birchen,
The sharp cutting birchen ;

That torturing birch in the schoolmaster's fist.

That torturing birchen I hailed with no pleasure;
For often, at noon, when returned we too late
The master would deal out his terrible measure
On those who shared with me my ill-deserved
fate ;

How ardent I feared it—my cheeks all a-glowing
As quick on my digits the heavy strokes fell ;
Then soon with salt tears my eyelids o'erflowing,
I'd vent out my anguish in one supreme yell.

That nicely trimmed birchen,
That sharp cutting birchen,

That torturing birch which was wielded so well.

How oft I've gone up from my seat to receive it,
And mounted the back of some comrade of
nerve ;

No entreaties would tempt the old pedant to
leave it,

Or prevail on his heart from his duty to swerve.
And now far removed from the scenes of disaster.

The scars on my back will intrusively swell,
As fancy reverts to the one-eyed schoolmaster,
And curses the birchen he wielded so well.

The nicely trimmed birchen,
The sharp cutting birchen,

The torturing birchen he wielded so well.

Aylmer, Feb. 9, '88.

T. P. FOKAN, '67.

ATHLETIC NEWS.

THE *Boston Globe*, ever to the fore in journal-
istic enterprise, printed lately the replies of the
presidents of the leading American universities to
a circular asking whether the attendance at their
institutions was affected by the prevalence or
absence of athletic sports. The majority answer-
ed in the negative. Most assuredly. Athletics
are not supposed to take the place of a course of
studies, but, *ceteris paribus*, the university that
bestows proper attention upon physical develop-
ment will meet with much greater success than the
one that neglects it. And herein lies the secret
of the almost phenomenal progress of Ottawa Uni-
versity during the last few years. To an excellent
literary course, a strong training in mathematics,
a course of philosophy that has been praised by
the highest authorities, and a natural and physical
science course that offers advantages to be obtain-
ed nowhere else in the Dominion, Ottawa Univer-
sity adds that without which all these things
would be but bitter fruits, namely, physical train-
ing. Let Harvard, Yale and Princeton give up

their football, and Oxford, Cambridge and Lon-
don their boating, and we venture to say but a
few years would show a very marked retrogression
in every respect.

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The fine weather of the past week has made
handball an enjoyable game. The winter has
shown conclusively that there was a mistake made
in the erection of the handball alley. It should
have been entirely covered, as now it is practically
useless during the long winter months and upon
other rainy or stormy days that occasionally occur.
However in a few weeks the handball season will
have begun, and, as it is a game that all can and
wish to play, we hope that the proceedings of last
fall will not be continued. The alley is not the
exclusive property of any student or body of stu-
dents ; any member of the A.A. has a perfect
right to play in his turn, and it is folly for any
gentlemen to attempt to reason themselves into
thinking that they have a "corner" on handball.
A list has been prepared and will be posted in a
conspicuous place, and it is the duty of those who
arranged that list to see that it is respected. Let
them do so.