

THE OLD BIRCHEN.

How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,

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 throng 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 journalistic 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 answered 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 development will meet with much greater success than the one that neglects it. And herein lies the secret of the almost phenomenal progress of Ottawa University 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 obtained nowhere else in the Dominion, Ottawa University adds that without which all these things would be but bitter fruits, namely, physical training. Let Harvard, Yale and Princeton give up

their football, and Oxford, Cambridge and London 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 students ; 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.