

# Gazette Marches On

by Michael Steeves

For almost a century, longer than any other college newspaper in Canada the *Dalhousie Gazette* has appeared regularly throughout the college term. During this period the University had added many new courses in Arts and Science, created the Faculties of Law, Medicine, Dentistry and Commerce; these schools have read the *Gazette*, contributed to it, and remembered it as one of the symbols of unforgettable, irreplaceable, college years.

The beginnings of the *Dalhousie College Gazette* were by no means auspicious. The University itself was founded as an institution of higher learning in 1818, but it was not until 1866-1867 that an unofficial student publication appeared. It remained until January 25, 1869, however, for formal recognition to be extended by the University to the newspaper.

Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Gazette* bears little resemblance to the paper you are now reading. The first official edition consisted of four pages: an editorial, nine stanzas of a poem translated by a student from the German (concluded in the two succeeding issues) and two articles, "Notes on Cape Breton," and "The Nature of Falsehood."

The editorial stated the original purpose of the paper:

Its aim is two-fold, viz: the cultivation of a literary taste among ourselves, and the establishment of an organ in which free expression can be given, not only to our own sentiments, but to those of others who may interest themselves in our progress and prosperity. The prosperity of a University is the prosperity of a Nation. The training and mental taste formed there extend their influence to succeeding generations, and give to the national character tone and direction.

The *Gazette* has changed over the years, its policies have altered with time and circumstances, but its purpose is still largely applicable today.

Among those persons most interested and enthusiastic about the institution of a newspaper at Dalhousie was one Joseph Howe.

The early pages of the *Gazette* were graced by work of sound literary merit. The insipid dregs of humour that tend to creep into the college newspapers of today were not present. The contents of the paper grew to include literary contributions of all kinds, poems, stories and articles, correspondence, editorials, campus news and personal columns. Subject matter was limited, articles appear on topics such as "Ancient Speculation," "The Study of Anglo Saxon," and "Is a Belief in Darwinism Consistent with a Teleological View of the Natural World?"

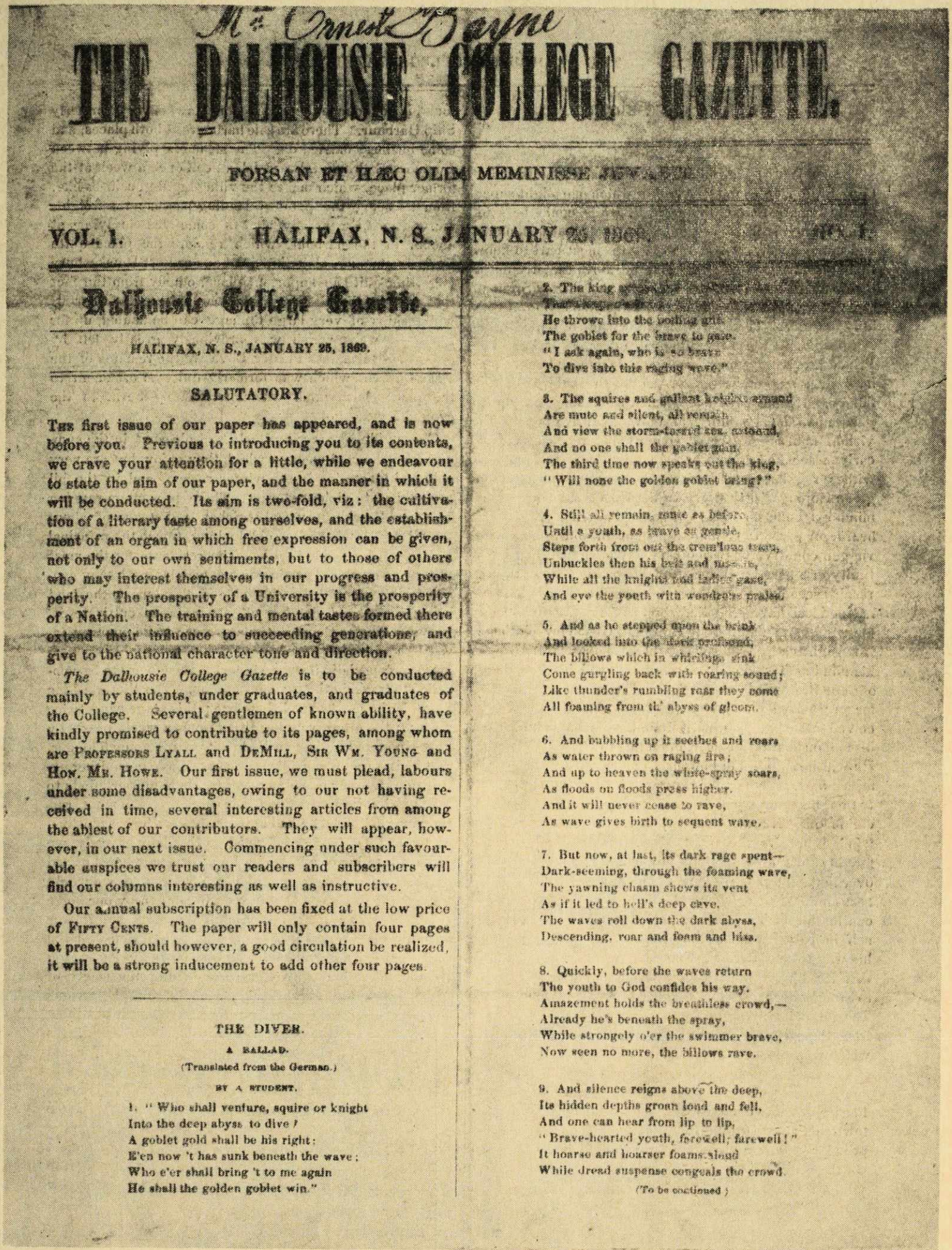
The *Gazette* grew with the University. As new faculties were added, the number of students increased and the influence of Dalhousie as a Canadian educational force became greater than ever before. A new format began to emerge. Each edition was published bi-monthly, generally containing some 75 pages. Essentially a magazine, it used the same reader-approach as many national periodicals.

The scholarly, well turned essays, "old world" atmosphere, and Latin puns were replaced only after the First World War. The page style again changed, this time embodying the "daily paypuh" brand of "hot" collegiate news, twentieth century "youth poetry," "post war cynicisms," the short hair and shorter skirts era, the aggressiveness of world policy after 1930, the strange

Cultivation of Literary Taste and Organ of Free Expression— Aim

## Page One of the Historic Dal Gazette

On the following four pages appear photostat copies of the first four pages of THE DALHOUSIE COLLEGE GAZETTE published 90 years ago Sunday on January 25, 1869. From a four page bi-monthly edition the *Gazette* has grown and developed to its present state, usually an eight-page weekly edition. There is still much to do and every editor looks forward to increasing publication, in fact even to the greatest hope that Dalhousie will soon have grown to such a size that it can support a daily paper.



VOL. I.

HALIFAX, N. S. JANUARY 25, 1869.

### Dalhousie College Gazette.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 25, 1869.

#### SALUTATORY.

THE first issue of our paper has appeared, and is now before you. Previous to introducing you to its contents, we crave your attention for a little, while we endeavour to state the aim of our paper, and the manner in which it will be conducted. Its aim is two-fold, viz: the cultivation of a literary taste among ourselves, and the establishment of an organ in which free expression can be given, not only to our own sentiments, but to those of others who may interest themselves in our progress and prosperity. The prosperity of a University is the prosperity of a Nation. The training and mental tastes formed there extend their influence to succeeding generations, and give to the national character tone and direction.

The *Dalhousie College Gazette* is to be conducted mainly by students, under graduates, and graduates of the College. Several gentlemen of known ability, have kindly promised to contribute to its pages, among whom are PROFESSORS LYALL and DEMILL, SIR WM. YOUNG and HON. MR. HOWE. Our first issue, we must plead, labours under some disadvantages, owing to our not having received in time, several interesting articles from among the ablest of our contributors. They will appear, however, in our next issue. Commencing under such favourable auspices we trust our readers and subscribers will find our columns interesting as well as instructive.

Our annual subscription has been fixed at the low price of FIFTY CENTS. The paper will only contain four pages at present, should however, a good circulation be realized, it will be a strong inducement to add other four pages.

#### THE DIVER.

A BALLAD.

(Translated from the German.)

BY A STUDENT.

1. "Who shall venture, squire or knight  
Into the deep abyss to dive?  
A goblet gold shall be his right:  
E'en now 't has sunk beneath the wave:  
Who e'er shall bring 't to me again  
He shall the golden goblet win."

2. The king, as he sat on his throne,  
That day, as he sat on his throne,  
He throw into the boiling sea  
The goblet for the brave to see.  
"I ask again, who is so brave  
To dive into this raging wave?"

3. The squires and gallant knights around  
Are mute and silent, all remain  
And view the storm-tossed sea, instead,  
And no one shall the goblet gain.  
The third time now speaks out the king,  
"Will none the golden goblet bring?"

4. Still all remain, silent as before,  
Until a youth, as brave as gold,  
Steps forth from out the tremulous crowd,  
Unbuckles then his belt and sword,  
While all the knights and ladies gaze,  
And eye the youth with wondrous pride.

5. And as he stepped upon the brink  
And looked into the dark profound,  
The billows which in whirlpools sink  
Come gurgling back with roaring sound;  
Like thunder's rumbling roar they come  
All foaming from the abyss of gloom.

6. And bubbling up it seethes and roars  
As water thrown on raging fire;  
And up to heaven the white-spray soars,  
As floods on floods press higher.  
And it will never cease to rave,  
As wave gives birth to sequent wave.

7. But now, at last, its dark rage spent—  
Dark-seeming, through the foaming wave,  
The yawning chasm shows its vent  
As if it led to hell's deep cove.  
The waves roll down the dark abyss,  
Descending, roar and foam and hiss.

8. Quickly, before the waves return  
The youth to God confides his way.  
Amazement holds the breathless crowd,—  
Already he's beneath the spray,  
While strongly o'er the swimmer brave,  
Now seen no more, the billows rave.

9. And silence reigns above the deep,  
Its hidden depths groan loud and fell,  
And one can hear from lip to lip,  
"Brave-hearted youth, farewell; farewell!"  
It hoarse and hoarser foams and hisses  
While dread suspense congeals the crowd.

(To be continued.)

lull before 1939, the ferocity of a second world catastrophe, the reconstruction of 1945 and succeeding years, the hopes for a new world governed by the Rule of Peace and the Laws of Reason, the defeat of these hopes by each nation withdrawing into itself and the establishment of a Balance of Terror—all have been recorded in our pages. Late in 1944, the *Gazette* conducted a province-wide contest to determine "What to do with Hitler" after the cessation of hostilities. Answers ranged from all the prob-

lems in the Mathematics 2 textbook to the "berled in erl" type of approach; satiric glances at *Canada* were noted in an article deploring the "lack" of a national flag; members of the academic staff contributed articles to the "Half Century" review issue.

The world has altered since the first pioneer issue of the *Gazette* 90 years ago. As we begin our 91st year, we can look back on a history rich with the events which have shaped our lives. The guns of a dozen wars have thundered their

vollies of death and have been silenced. The age of the atom has been introduced with all its potential for servility or destruction.

Ninety years is a long time in the history of any institution. Canada herself is but two years older. Few men or women reach the age of ninety, fewer publications survive that long. But this is just the beginning. Future Dalhousians will edit this paper, change it, improve it. Their service to the University and to their fellow students will perhaps go unheralded, but they

will be content in the knowledge that they will have assisted in the continuation of a tradition of service to you and your successors.

The year that saw three great advances in communications: the opening of the first transcontinental railway, the completion of the Suez Canal, and the first publication of the *Gazette*, will, we hope be a year for all Dalhousians to remember.

Happy Birthday, *Gazette*. We trust your next ninety years will be as propitious. Good luck!