

Acadia Athenæum.

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CONTENTS.

The Dead Year, (Poetry).....	9
Rhetorical Exhibition.....	9
Love of the Beautiful.....	10
Examinations at Horton Academy.....	11
Man.....	11
Editorials.....	12
The Christmas Vacation.....	14
Seasonal.....	14
Latin Grammar or Ditching.....	14
Errata in last issue.....	14
Notices.....	15
Correspondence.....	15
Personals.....	15

ONCE FOR ALL.

WE tried to be explicit in our last issue about money matters, and yet we fear all have not understood us. Some of those to whom we sent papers, imagining they came *free* from their friends at College, have neither returned the papers nor remitted us the *fifty cents*. They have doubtless thought and reasoned this way: Our friend Mr. So-and-so, at College, has taken a lot of these papers and is sending them to us, his friends, *gratis*. Now this is altogether a mistaken notion.

Our plan was this. We got from each student a list of names of his acquaintances who were likely to become subscribers. To these our Managing Committee, and not the individual students, addressed papers. Hence *no* papers were sent *gratis*. Now, reader, mark that, and if you have hitherto been under a false impression, be undeceived now, and remit at once your fifty cents. Remember our terms, fifty cents per year, *in advance*. See our advertisement on last page.

If we have sent papers to those, who do not wish to become subscribers, they should return them immediately; otherwise they are liable for the subscription.

All business communications must be addressed to G. E. Good, Corresponding Secretary, Wolfville, N. S.

(Concluded.)

LET the student turn to the review of previous acquisitions and there will flash upon the mass of facts a new and stronger light. Now what seemed to be mere intellectual conceptions, stir into life and become all aglow with thought. The great deeps of the inner life are broken up, and a strong sympathy takes possession of the mental world. Many things which were obscure before, become plain now. The productions of mind, if they are pure evolutions, having emanated from pure sources, must always find a response in mind: there is a recognition of kindred formation. That the creations of spirit can be appreciated by spirit only, that the mental food which nourished Tasso, Newton, and Milton, is that which is best adapted to develop us, that the joy, the enthusiasm, the exultation which swept the heart-strings of bygone generations are the same which sweep ours, that the burdened volumes of hoary centuries can be made available for us, becomes as plain as the light of Heaven. Just as the flower, when refreshed by the showers of the sky, blooms with fresh and vernal beauty, as the thirsty traveller, after quaffing the pure cold water, feels refreshed and quickened, so he who has humbly and eagerly received the lessons of Science, and striven long and continuously to receive the benefits she is adapted to confer will ultimately find the sanctuaries of the inner world enriched, and have a vivid consciousness of the wondrous adaptation of Truth to the wants of the understanding. The years now disclose their abiding treasures, and the past merges into the present. Many things which were abstract now become the concrete in most beautiful forms. There are abundant indications of a good harvest, and the soul having received a strong impetus from the past is girded and mighty for the work which lies before it.

But as surely as the copious shower succeeds the bursting of the thunder-cloud, so surely does the knowledge taken in, work out its legitimate results in a suggestive point of view. Truth, standing out in naked and comely proportions, is the Talisman that reveals to us eternal corollaries which flash upon us with such beauty and power that they

light up the grand propositions, and serve as strong bulwarks around their bases. Just as the word Home suggests a thousand tender associations, and each association has a value and a power, because of its bearing upon those places and scenes of earlier years, so does the proper comprehension and contemplation of truth suggest connections with other truths which are admirably adapted to add new light to the already vivid conception. We now begin to see how this is the offshoot of that—how, this which is now disclosing itself existed from Eternity, and how entirely independent of our will its existence is—how these conclusions have been drawn from the never-varying laws of nature—how interesting the transition from the comparative to the absolute—how we can pass from strong probability to all-absorbing belief,—and we are almost lost in the train of our thick-coming thoughts. One principle gives rise to another, and the latter places us upon the broad platform of some general law which governs matter and chains worlds. Sometimes knowledge which seems to be detached and isolated suddenly becomes luminous, as when the sun flashes with light the cloud-covered sky, revealing unthought of connections. Item after item falls into the general arrangement, and thus we find eternal truths linked together, stretching on to the Infinite.

We arrive at a certain stage in the prosecution of our studies. The ground of years has been travelled over, and we ask ourselves the very natural question, "what is the amount of capital I have in present possession"? Have I sounded the great sea and gazed far into its treasure-strewn depths, or merely been skimming over the surface? Justice to ourselves demands a careful and candid answer. If uncertainty and a feeling almost lost between half-developed consciousness and a dark unknown void, on faithful questioning, assert themselves, if the voice is lost amid the din and reverberations of empty halls, and no spirits muster at the cry, if mental life cowers and seems unable to assert itself,—then it is absolutely necessary that a thorough review be speedily undertaken. If knowledge is exterior to the understanding, the mind is divorced from all healthy