

WHEN we left Wolfville last June the village was able to boast a paper. It was small, and thin, and light; but it was a paper, and called *The Star*. A. J. Steele was editor and proprietor. He also sold books, played chess, and, on rare occasions, smoked. He had been a school teacher, attended Presbyterian church with commendable punctuality, and was looked upon as an exemplary character. But when we returned to Wolfville this Fall we found the people singing,

"Dim is The Star that lately shone."

On enquiry we learned that editorial experience had completely befogged our fat friend's moral perceptions. One night the building in which his paper was printed *accidentally* caught fire, and was consumed, with all it contained. Mr. Steele collected the insurance money, borrowed a large sum from his political friends, and then decided that the time was ripe for him to

"Fold his tent like the Arab  
And as silently Steele away."

So he *stole* away, and *The Star* shines no more.

SOME misunderstanding seems to have arisen in respect to eligibility to compete for the Essay prize. A few words will explain the situation of affairs pertaining thereto. Some years ago all undergraduates were eligible for competition. Later the seniors were ruled out. Thereafter the prize was commonly, if not always, taken by a Junior, though Sophomores, and Freshmen were also competitors. Last year it was taken by two Sophomores, and the statement was made in the *Acadia Athenæum*, and repeated in the *Christian Visitor*, that the prize was competed for by the Sophomores, implying that they only were competitors. The statement of the *Visitor* was corrected by some writer, who asserted that competition was open to the three lower classes. Each statement is true in itself, and yet, when taken alone, may convey only half the truth. To Sophomores subjects are given, and essays are required monthly. The Juniors are not required to write *monthly* essays upon assigned subjects; but if any one in that class, or in the Freshman class, wishes to compete for the prize, he is at liberty to do so. In that case he is required to write an essay each

month, the same as the Sophomore class. The comparative value of all these compositions is then considered, and the best wins the prize. Thus a Sophomore is an involuntary competitor, while the Junior or Freshman must enter the lists "with malice aforethought." Be it understood, however, that any one who has once taken the prize cannot compete a second time. Competition this year will be between the Sophomores, and such members of the Junior and Freshman classes as may be induced, by the possibility of winning twenty dollars, to write eight essays.

WE hope that the changes which have been made in the style of the *Athenæum* will win the approval of our patrons. Hitherto regard for economy, rather than for elegance or neatness, has ruled in our counsels. For a long time dissatisfaction has been felt with the appearance of our paper, and this year nearly all were agreed that improvements must be made. Henceforth our printer will use a superior quality of paper. The size of the sheet, also, has been enlarged. The manifold (we might almost say *marigold*) colors which made illustrious the covers of the *Athenæum* last year will be looked for in vain. Not by our volition did they appear; not by our wish will they ever reappear. To dust and dimness we consign them, crying "*Requiescat in pace.*" Our subscribers will readily perceive that the changes introduced have increased our outlay; hence they will be prepared for the announcement that the price has been raised from 50 cts. to \$1.00 a year. In the past the need of raising the subscription price has been recognized, and the matter has been somewhat discussed editorially in the paper. With other changes this has been adopted—a sequence and a necessity. We do not believe that many of our friends will find the added fifty cents to be that last straw which breaks the camel's back. On the contrary we believe that all true friends of the Educational Institutions at Wolfville will cheerfully—many even gladly—lend this small aid toward so improving the appearance of our college paper that they, and we, shall not need to blush for it. Concerning the contents of the paper we have little to say. Of an American politician it was once