

### Things around Home.

OUR course of monthly Lectures, an institution of the Acadia Athenæum, has among other good results, that of enlivening the monotony of student life up in this pretty, but quiet, little village of Wolfville. The series for the present winter was very happily begun by a most interesting lecture on "John Bunyan" by the Rev. G. M. W. Carey, A. M., of St. John. The immortal Tinker was handled in a masterly manner. After a striking word picture of the social, intellectual and civil condition of England in the days of Bunyan, the lecturer sketched for us in clear-cut thought and choice language the different periods of the great dreamer's life. He carried us in sympathy and imagination to the home of the Gipsy tinker, as he told of the early life of him who "came of an inconsiderable generation;" to the humble festivities of honest John's marriage, to the gloom and loneliness of Bedford jail. The sturdy worth, the simple, straight forward manliness, and the true genius of the hero of the evening were dwelt upon in such an expressive, vigorous, glowing manner, that we felt like stretching out a hand of hearty admiration, and laying it on his honest, homely palm. We always did look upon Bunyan as one of Earth's truly great souls, but we can and do thank the lecturer that his vivid outlines of the man's life and character have shown us new features to admire, that the sterling moral worth and surpassing, unassuming genius of the Baptist Tinker have been displayed to us in a light, and surrounded with a glow of interest, in which we have never before beheld them.

The second lecture of the season, "Six Weeks on Wheels," by Mr. Fletcher, of the Island Argus, was one which made us all feel that it was good to be there. We always feel in a good humour when we think of it; a little ripple from the great wave of merriment that swept over us comes purling back till it breaks in a satisfied smile over our thoughtful visage. As soon as the lecturer commenced to speak, we felt that we could lean back and enjoy ourselves. And we were not mistaken. From the time when we stepped with him out of the editorial sanctum in P. E. I., till he brought us to the busy marts of San Francisco in the "Golden State," we knew what it was to be in jovial company, and in profitable company withal. Wit, good humor,

practical philosophy, picturesque description, these were the wheels on which he hurried us across the continent, and a very pleasant ride we had. His pictures of prairie and mountain scenery were striking and interesting; his sketches of California, and its customs and manners, were instructive; but his story of the rise and progress of a western town was simply overwhelming, and carried the audience away beyond all the bounds of sobriety on a great flood of joviality. We think we have never before, in Wolfville, seen an audience so thoroughly abandoned to uncontrollable laughter. We believe we gained a pound of flesh over some of the jokes which the genial editor perpetrated. It were idle to add that we went back to our studies that night refreshed and rejuvenated. And now when the blues steal quietly over us, as they are so apt to do during this dreary fall weather, we remember our last lecture, and it is pleasant, though not mournful to our soul.

ONE of those joyful events called Receptions occurred not long since, when the young ladies of the Seminary opened their hearts and flung wide their parlor doors for the entertainment of the students of the sterner sex, who live in the shadow of these walls. Shut out as we necessarily are here from many of the pleasures, refinements and relaxations of social life, these receptions are matters of no light moment, and it is only a source of regret to the students that these pleasant evening re-unions are not more frequent during the long and almost monotonous winter months. They tend to keep alive that social feeling which is apt to be killed out to a great extent amid the seclusion of a student's life; they are pleasant, green milestones which break the long march of the winter hours, and they cheer us in various ways. But in regard to this one. Of course we all went in, except a few social hermits, and of course we enjoyed ourselves immensely. It is the afterthought of such hours as these which cheers us in times of Calculus and gloom.

AMONG other articles crowded out of our last issue was an account of a Concert in aid of the new Academy Building, which was given by Messrs. J. S. Harding and Akerley, and Misses Smith, Prudie Hart and Lottie Hart, all of St. John. We are sorry that it is now too late to give this very enjoyable, and much enjoyed musical treat, its due. We can only say on behalf of the institution in whose interest the concert was given and of the audience by whom it was so well appreciated, a tardy but a hearty "Thank You" to our friends across the Bay.