

# Acadia Athenæum.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., MARCH, 1876.

## EDITORS:

D. H. SIMPSON, Snr., J. GOODWIN, Jnr.,  
F. D. CRAWLEY, Ssr., B. W. LOCKHART,  
Sophr.

## MANAGING COMMITTEE:

J. O. REDDEN, I. C. ARCHIBALD,  
B. P. SHAFNER, G. B. HEALY,  
W. H. ROBINSON, Sec'y.

## CONTENTS:

"Only" (Poetry).....	49
Novel Reading.....	49
Honore Balzac.....	50
Correspondence—Physical Culture.....	51
Acknowledgements.....	51
Editorial.....	52
The Prosperity of Colleges, &c.....	53
Horton Collegiate Academy.....	54
Locals.....	55

*The "Acadia Athenæum" is sent to subscribers at the exceedingly low price of Fifty Cents per year IN ADVANCE, postage pre-paid.*

THE result of the late agitation on the "College Question" has been a paper university, and also increased grants to the Denominational Colleges. In regard to the increased grants; it is, at all events, a satisfaction to feel that quite a step has been taken in the way of dealing fairly with the different colleges. The idea of a Paper University is one that requires to be well thought upon and weighed, before giving an opinion either for or against it. Since, however, we are undergraduates in one of the arts colleges in the province, and hence interested parties, we suppose that our readers expect us to give our views on this question. We believe that each student in the college has been intensely interested in this educational campaign, and has read the different articles which have been written on it; thus informing himself on the subject. When it was seen that the bill was likely to become law, a meeting of the students was held, in which the Paper University was discussed, and when the vote was taken, it was found, that with the exception of one voice, the meeting voted against the project of establishing such University. We have not space to enumerate all the reasons which were then urged in support of the position taken, but mention a few of what seems to us as the most important.

*First.* We believe that outside our college faculties, we have few men who are competent to fill the places of examiners. Men who may have been thoroughly educated ten or twenty years ago are, owing to the many changes in text-books and methods of teaching, unfit to act as examiners of students to-day. The impropriety of choosing such examiners from the professors of the different colleges will be recognized by all, when we consider the advantage it would give to the students who attended the lectures of such professors.

*Second.* We look upon diplomas given at colleges in which students have mastered the entire course, and signed by the President and Professors of such colleges, as of more value than those conferred by a Paper University, which has neither "a local habitation nor a name."

*Third.* We look upon the measure as degrading and lowering the existing colleges, without advancing in any way that we can see, the educational interests. If our college Faculties are not competent to examine their classes and grant degrees, they must, certainly be, incompetent to teach.

We hope that those who have ever stood so nobly by the Denominational colleges will "look before they leap," in this matter. We cannot but think that if they fall in with the measure, they will lose ground that it will be difficult to regain. Personally we have no fears of the new University. With our high curriculum, and energetic staff of professors, we feel quite able to cope with the students of any other college in the Province. But we do fear for our Alma Mater if she once gives up the power of examining her students and granting degrees.

A DANIEL come to judgement yea a Daniel,  
Oh wise young judge how I do honour thee!

One would almost think that the founder of Dalhousie sucked the teats of a she-wolf, and that the young men studying in that Institution at present had imbibed the savage spirit of the aforesaid founder—judging from the uncompromising hostility with which they take the war-path. We offer the following remarks upon the satirical effusion called forth by our article on Prof. Jones'

lecture. There is a much-lauded passage from Milton commencing

"Hail Holy Light, offspring of heaven first born."

The address completed, he proceeds thus:—

Thee I revisit now with bolder wing,  
Escaped the Stygian pool, though long detained  
In that obscure sojourn.

When reading this "how could we help trembling for the" poet's "safety while 'hovering over the Stygian pool' lest by some mischance he should lose his balance and tumble in. No doubt his wings were carefully waxed. He deserves all praises for the adventurous spirit which he has manifested, but we are not sure that his example is to be recommended." By gracious! what a figure the old fellow must have cut when he was straddling over Styx. Ah! if he had attended to his own business on earth, and let the devils alone instead of running about the burning lake, he wouldn't have got his eyes knocked out. However we have to congratulate the learned poet "on his safe return from such a perilous voyage." Milton—you are radically squelched!

But such a ridiculous figurative style as this is not confined to poetry. That "son of Anak" Jean Paul Richter, in the Siebenkäs sends some one on a similar voyage. "I mounted into the Suns, and flew with the galaxies through the wastes of heaven etc." It is quoted in that much-worried article in the former issue. But "how could we help trembling for him?" What a miracle that he did not fall off! He must have been perfect master of the laws of gravitation. Wonderful that he did not smash his head against some of the other Suns in the galaxy! This is no burlesque; but the fac-simile of what purports to be a common sense criticism. As we look over it now, it seems to be a curious critical monstrosity. Ostensively, a censor of the public taste, the guardian angel of the Queen's English. This critic shows himself in reality to be a trivial, bitter, unreasoning fault-finder. But take courage Cousin D—, you are not the first copyist of the Fiend you quote.

Who practised falsehood under saintly show  
Deep malice to conceal.

Like him too you are not enough  
"practised to decide." Your inexperience, youth and conceit must partially excuse