

AWARD OF THE GILCHRIST FOR '75.

OUR minds have of late been especially drawn to a consideration of the above subject, from the fact that one of Acadia's sons has been a successful competitor for this scholarship. The Gilchrist Scholarship Trust is open for competition to all young men of the Dominion of Canada, between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two. The successful candidate receives one hundred pounds sterling a year for the period of three years, and must attend for that time either the London or Edinburgh University. Examination papers are sent from England to Deputy Examiners in the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The examination continues a week, six hours each day. The subjects on which the Dominion candidates are examined are the same as required from the matriculates for London University.

This Trust fund has been established for nine years, during which time Ontario students have carried off the palm for five years, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia for one year each, and this year the laurel has fallen upon the brow of Mr. Jacob G. Schurman, of Freetown, P. E. Island.

Mr. Schurman, after attending the Prince of Wales College for some time, came to Acadia for the purpose of pursuing his studies still further, and entered upon the work of the Sophomore year. A mind of superior caliber, united with strength of body, well qualified him for the arduous undertaking in which he was about to engage. His course of two years at this Institution was one of decided success. Besides maintaining his position at the head of his class, he has accomplished a large amount of extra work in preparing and arming himself for the contest of the Gilchrist.

A few facts will give us a clearer understanding of the thoroughness and soundness of his education. Out of the five or six hundred candidates that applied for matriculation at the London University, only *nine* stood higher than Mr. Schurman. The next best of the competitors from the Dominion, was from the Province of Ontario, who stood the nineteenth (19th) in order.

Mr. Schurman having the choice of attending either Edinburgh or London University, has decided in favor of the latter. Our best wishes follow him. We feel assured that his course of study will well qualify him for a life of extensive usefulness, and that success will crown his efforts in the future as it has so manifested in the past.

THE "MOODY MADNESS."

"Sable colored melancholy," as the poet styles it, has frequently proved an efficient disturber of man's happiness and peace, tincturing the view of present things and the outlook upon the future with most lugubrious and unwholesome hues. Minerva-like this spirit is often evolved from amid the hot fancies of some disordered brain, a dread inquisitor endowed with plenary power of torture. In these its advanced stages,

"The nurse of phrensy,"

"Kinsman to grief and comfortless despair,"

it is strong even to the overthrow of reason, at times glooming in eternal night the earthly glow of some transcendent genius. How frequently in the columns of the daily news is our eye arrested by the brief, sad line, burdened with the record of "one more unfortunate" who, spurred on by relentless want, disappointment, or failure, has sought an abiding refuge from this dread Nemesis. In less terrible and fatal outgrowths, dark-hued melancholy, prosaically termed the *blues*, enters an unseemly element into many a life, quenching the cheery light of sunny days, and placing a stumbling block in the way of sincere and fruitful labor. The unfortunate victim of this "Moody Madness" looks with jaundiced vision upon all his surroundings. He begins to doubt the sincerity of chosen friends. A word, a look, unnoticed at another time, are caught at with a morbid and suspicious scrutiny, and add materially to his misery. Present effort loses its interest. The joyless record of the past, intensifies the dreariness of to-day, which reaching forth vaguely into the morrow, drapes in funereal gloom the storehouse of future hopes. A subsequent review of these grusome experiences may elicit a smile, and lead us to wonder that we should ever have descended into such extraordinary depths, but this is not altogether a subject for mirth. Any element entering into the formation of character, prejudicial to true happiness and usefulness should become a matter of thoughtful concern, and there is danger that these freaks of thought and emotion, if yielded to, may attain the strength of troublesome habits, arising to enslave and cast down at every conjunction of opposing circumstances. A spirit of manly self reliance needs to be cherished, a spirit which scorns to bend before the unfortuitous events, that rise like mushrooms in the path of life, a spirit so persistent and unyielding in its character as to make of the obstacles in its way, petty discouragements, hours of strong temptation, and days of gloom and trial, stepping-stones in a sure and upward advance. Opposed to this, we find natures, which seem to have a tendency ever to look upon the dark side of mortal

haps, lives which appear to have been pitched upon the minor key, and throughout are but one continued dismal moztartian strain. Apprehensive natures, turning from the joyful blessing of the present to the vision of possible gloom and failure in the future. Selfish and morbidly sensitive natures, shrinking beneath depreciative words and looks. Discontented natures, blinded to the true worth of existing good, by the delusive mirage of the "good time coming." Too frequently our better judgment is passively surrendered to the fit of depression that comes upon us, when a sober unimpassioned view of existing circumstances, would lead us to see, that thus to yield would be the part of unreasoning cowardice. Time well occupied with honest work, a faithful regard to the laws that pertain to our physical well being, the consciousness that our aim is lofty and pure, and an abiding faith in an ever ruling, never erring Providence, these should leave no room for such unmanly and unmaning indulgence as it is implied in a "fit of the blues." The sentiments of that noble type of christian manhood, the Apostle Paul, should be ours, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content," together with its echo in the words of a modern poet.

"Tis impious for a good man to be sad."

Then "if that surly spirit, melancholy, hath baked thy blood and made it heavy," turn it "forth to funerals," and let there be a resolute awakening to a keen and appreciative consciousness of the mighty relations which, as men, we hold to the world of men about us, and to a recognition of the true dignity and responsibility devolving upon those who are called to bear the great burden of life.

ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

THIS society from which our paper derives its name, held its first regular meeting for the current Collegiate year on Friday evening, the 10th inst. The following officers were appointed for the first term:—

D. H. Simpson, President; B. P. Shafner, Vice-President; A. J. Denton, Secretary, B. W. Lockhart, Cor. Secretary; H. H. Welton, Treasurer; E. W. Kelly, Critic.

It is the object of this society to afford facilities to the students attending the Institution for improvement in public speaking; for the cultivation of literary taste, and the acquirements of general information. Its old adherents together with the accession of about twenty-five new members all entering upon the work of promoting the best interests of the society with energy and enthusiasm, are