

cious ore from its native fastness. Most men content themselves with picking up the chips that fly from the huge hammers wielded by the brawny arms of their more ambitious fellows. Very few traverse in a life-time the broad fields of known knowledge, much less enter the limitless unexplored beyond. Before the restless eye of the youthful aspirant to mental pre-eminence rises range on range, high, rugged, precipitous, each succeeding one lifting its craggy head nearer to the clouds, wearing a deeper frown and seemingly hiding more frightful obstacles than any preceding. The scene awakens pain by the thought that he must toil on one step at a time.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—

Will you allow me in a spirit of kindly affection, and with a true and earnest desire to be serviceable to you and the friends of our institution, to make a few remarks concerning the general character and tone of the *ATHENÆUM*. In this I do not for a moment presume to sit in judgment upon or criticise the emanations of minds whose possessors are doubtless competent to be my instructors, but, like an onlooker at a game of skill I may be able to detect weaknesses and errors which would not be apparent to you the principals. I am sure that your chief aim and desire in your editorial undertaking is, that you may afford entertainment and instruction to all your readers, and with that end in view, I do not imagine that you will resent advice in the matter from any source.

To begin then at once my responsible undertaking, I give it as my opinion that the *ATHENÆUM* lacks one element of interest in the quality of its matter. To take as an example the January number and what do we find it composed of. The poetical part of it I will notice anon; of the prose articles we have—"What Canada has done for history," an essay "imagination in literature," an uncompleted sketch of "Madame Roland," an onslaught upon the Mount Allison Journal, a notice of the Xmas. Exhibitions, some brief notices of things in general, and as a finale a few funnyisms (?) Now all these articles are excellent, and in themselves interesting. What I object to is the number of articles of the

same kind. It is like the prison fare of cabbage and bacon, if you do not care about bacon you can have cabbage. What is wanted is a few spicy little effusions, sandwiched in among this heavy matter, to give your readers a taste of wit and humor as well as history and science. A Journal such as yours requires to be composed of as many materials as boarding house hash. Make your humorous and witty fellows contribute to your columns, and depend upon it the *ATHENÆUM* will lead the van in the array of College Journals.

In regard to your poetical department of which I made mention above, I can only say that the fiat has gone forth from your suffering readers that the author of this original poetry must die. No milder measures will suffice. Our ears have been tortured and our senses overwhelmed by dirge-like productions, worse in their effect than the disclosures of the Ghost of Hamlet's father. From the united throats of your numerous readers there comes in one terribly earnest shout, the clamour for this miscreant's blood.

In conclusion, I would say, Messrs. Editors, that if you adopt the few suggestions which I have endeavored in an imperfect manner, to present you would have the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts were crowned with the utmost success, and the *ATHENÆUM* would become a monument to your zeal and success in the affairs of the College.

Yours truly,

GRADUATE.

#### Personal Touches.

G. B. TITUS, of the Sophomore Class, is dangerously ill at Beaver River.

J. B. OAKES, A. B., 1871, is Principal of the Academy of Chatham, New Brunswick.

JOHN WALLACE practises Law at Wolfville.

M. W. BROWN, A. B., 1876, is Pastor of the Baptist Church at Rawdon.

F. D. CRAWLEY, A. B., 1876, is preaching at Pleasantfield, L. Co.

E. W. KELLEY, A. B., 1876, is Pastor of the Baptist Church, at Windsor.

J. O. REDDEN, A. B., 1876, is at his home in Windsor, in a delicate state of health.