

Review of Athenæum Society.

WITH an efficient staff of officers and committee men the Athenæum Society last year started under very favorable auspices and gave promise of a year's successful career. The members seemed actively interested in their society and endeavored to make its meetings interesting and instructive. Yet this almost abnormal enthusiasm gradually showed signs of decline. A number of the members sought *other diversions* for their Saturday evenings. Various means were tried to keep up the zeal necessary for the success of our meetings. Inter-class debates, which in previous years had been found helpful were instituted; yet these although partially successful did not fulfil the expectations of those most deeply interested in the welfare of our society. It was not until the Inter-collegiate debate with St. Francis Xavier's cast its dark and ever-darkening shadow over our society that the energy born of despair became manifest.

The necessity of selecting three debaters to represent Acadia in this contest with St. Francis Xavier's gave the required stimulus. At the eleventh hour special meetings were held and debates on the the question for discussion between the two colleges took place. At first it was generally conceded that Acadia had no debaters, but in these preliminary discussion evidences of ability in this line began to present themselves and from the crude material a number of men were giving promises of hope for the approaching contest. The Acadia team consisting of Messrs Balcom, Chittick and Porter on the evening of March 25th fully sustained the reputation of our Alma Mater in previous inter-collegiate debates. Considering the short time at their disposal for preparation and the highly creditable manner in which they presented their argument Acadia has sufficient reason to be proud of her Debating Team for 1904. They clearly proved that Imperial Federation under the conditions laid down by their opponents would be detrimental to Canada's progress and development.

This Inter-collegiate Debate, to which reference has been made, is but part of a larger scheme for an inter-collegiate debating League between Dalhousie, St. Francis Xavier's, Mount Allison, University of New Brunswick and Acadia. Last November a committee consisting of one representative from each of the above institutions convened in Wolfville and drew up a schedule for such a debating League.