

pervade an institution as to mar geniality and destroy personal freedom. This is the extreme, which has for its opposite that sure mark of weakness—tame acquiescence. Fortunately neither of these extremes are inevitable. A little care on the part of all will produce that happy mean which secures independence, and at the same time imparts the stimulus of generous sympathy.

At other times annoyances will arise from the unrestrained spirit of mischief. Any attempt to make college life grave would be as useless as it would be wicked; but, while the disposition for fun is a precious gift of nature, it is also capable of abuse and misdirection in common with other endowments.

These are circumstances which come largely within the control of students. Hence it is their duty to remember, that, except in cases where angelic goodness only can preserve sweet tempers and upright morals, the conditions of a proper college life do not lie entirely outside themselves.

In general, the welfare of a college community will depend somewhat upon the relations which obtain between its different parts. In no case will common or individual interests be conserved by one member placing itself in antagonism with the other members.

With a liberal, enlightened government, with an adequate and efficient faculty, with a body of buoyant and energetic students, with a feeling of mutual confidence uniting all these in deed and sympathy, the college community should be in every sense most blessed.

PROGRESS.

The University of New Brunswick has abandoned the system of daily marks, and has also made its course elective in the Senior year. These we believe are movements along the line of progress. The college which will devise a scheme by which the marking curse can be abolished—or if it must continue as a

necessary evil, evolve a system by which the evil will be reduced to a minimum,—will deserve to have its name handed down to posterity as one of the greatest, if not the greatest of benefactors to education in this day and generation. Will it be Acadia?

The course at Fredericton only extends over three years, and hence an elective course in the Senior year there does not mean the same as it would in our Senior year. We are reminded of Acadia's experience in elective studies. It may not be known that some few years ago a step was actually taken in this direction—a choice being given between modern languages and certain mathematics. But in the following year the authorities negatived their previous legislation, so that now our last state is apparently worse than the first. Yet we do not despair; "time is the great innovator." Hitherto the strongest organisms have failed to resist its influences; even cast-iron curricula moulded in the very furnace of conservatism and tempered with the spirit of the ages, have crumbled under the percolating tide of new ideas and the crushing power of broadened culture. So, as our college grows, by the addition of new work and new professors, this matter will so force itself into prominence that even those who love the old paths will be compelled to seek a new and better way.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Late English papers contain detailed reports of the meeting of the British Association at Southport.

We are not sufficiently learned to follow intelligently all the papers read; but they are nevertheless interesting to us as showing the nature and scope of the Society's work and the manner in which speculative and practical science is being advanced. We have constantly before us the objective evidence of great learning and skill; but only occasionally can we observe the individual mind