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## The Acadia Athenæum.

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THE *Dalhousie Gazette* hopes the attack upon the provincial treasury by the denominational colleges will be unsuccessful. Such expressions from a college which derives a part of its revenues from a legislative endowment, come with rather bad grace.

WHILE our literary society may be said to be fairly flourishing, it certainly comes far short of its possibilities. True, circumstances have been against us, but there should be a spirit among the students which, despite adverse conditions, would make greater success inevitable. The attendance is not so good as it should be, and the discussions fall below their possible merit. After a debate is fairly started there are plenty to speak, but in most cases there is evident lack of previous thought or preparation. Too frequently openers fail to appear or to provide substitutes, and hence

the debate loses for want of intelligent direction in the beginning. A little more effort on the part of each and all, would work a great improvement. We think that the society should reveal itself occasionally to the public, if for no other purpose, to justify its existence. Moreover, since we receive many kindnesses from friends on the hill and in the village, it would be fitting to reciprocate in some small way, by providing at times for their entertainment.

FOR several years Acadia has supported a missionary society. In general the monthly meetings are interesting, but we are of the opinion that they are not made as educative as they might be. They are of too general and miscellaneous a character—without definite aim or purpose. As we understand it, the missionary idea includes the desire and obligation to christianize all nations and peoples. It may be part of an abstract doctrine, but only as it takes hold of men in their heathen condition does it become a living power. There are but few who do not assent to the truths asserted. Then why deal so much with abstractions? But perhaps very few students have any clear insight into the great process of reclamation which is daily going on, or any due appreciation of the forces at work, or of the forms under which they act. Yet it is with and through these that they must work if they become factors in the great enterprise. We study missions as an idea rather than as an activity. The command is to all nations, yet we are seldom found seeking out the nations, to find where the gospel is needed, how it can be sent, and what transformations it will have to make. We often repeat that, the "proper study of mankind is man;"