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The Westminster Play.

Two things there are which a Westminster never forgets—a "tanning" and the "Play." As to the former, how well I can remember, when a "Junior," having once, in my hurry to get home on a Saturday, forgotten to make provision of a certain necessary article for Sunday consumption, and being summoned on Monday morning, after twelve o'clock school, to appear before an outraged "Senior." Taking off my gown at the door of the Upper Election Room (no Junior is allowed to enter it with his gown on), I usher myself into the presence of the Captain, Mr. —, the Senior, who had sent for me, and two or three other "Upper Elections." A *wire* lies ominously on the table; the Captain smiles and turns his back to the fire, lifting the tails of his gown so as not to impede the heat in its progress to his person—a heat somewhat different from that which was to shed its kindly (?) and correcting rays upon my own person!

M. — speaks, demanding the reason of such criminal negligence. "I—I—I thought"—"You thought! Di Superi!! He thought!!!" glancing round the group with indignation in every feature, "Don't you know, sir, that a Junior should never think?" I am dumb. The Captain shrugs his shoulders, mutters something and nods in reply to the inquiring glance of M. —.

"Touch toes, sir?" says the latter in a voice of thunder. Down goes the luckless Junior and down comes the *wire*!

Had you ever experienced, in the position described as "touching toes," and with a jacket which reached no further than the band of your breeches, half-a-dozen strokes dealt with the handle of a "wire" by a man somewhat over six feet, whose arm reached well down towards the knee, you would agree with me when I say that a "tanning" is not to be forgotten. I never thought again!

Those experiences formed part of our training as much as the Play, and it came to be play after we got well versed in arranging *toes* in such a manner as to escape detection!

Four of Terence's plays used to be acted in succession. *The Eunuchus*, *The Phormio*, *The Andria*, and *The Adelphi*. Latterly, *The Præsumptus* of Plautus was substituted for the first mentioned, as a concession to public taste, though by no means its equal either in plot or spirited dialogue. The play for 1873 was *The Phormio*, but before we examine into it let us see what are the preparations.

The play of the year forms a subject of study in the school for that term,—September to Christmas—and, the parts having been duly assigned to the different Seniors (for it is they who act the play), and such Third Elections as are necessary to complete the caste, numerous rehearsals are held by the masters.

Lively times have the prompter and call-boys during the months of preparation, and not a little abuse if they do not come up to the mark. After much trouble all is ready and the Dress Rehearsal comes off. All the masters are present, and little or no work is done in College that night. But I am anticipating.

Let us go, in imagination, to the school about four weeks before the Play is presented to the public. Crossing the Broad Sanctuary, we pass the elegant monument erected to the memory of the Westminster scholars who died in the Crimes,—a noble list of names with the motto, "*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*"—in under the arch to Dean's Yard, where we shall probably find a game of football going on in "green." Let us stop and watch for a moment. No "Rugby Rules" there—no hand but the goal-keeper's ever touches the ball—no tripping or hacking, only "shunting" with the shoulder. "A dull game!" Not at all. A very pretty game and exciting withal. Could you but see the great match of the year against Charter House. There is L. —, one of the best of the Eleven, with the ball; see how skillfully he "dribbles" it past fifty pairs of opposing legs and as many ready shoulders, and makes a periously straight kick for goal. But "Farmer," the goal-keeper of the Eleven, is there and catches it cleverly and sends it spinning toward the other end of "green!"

Turning to our left we enter Cloisters, pass the Dean's house, College Hall and the Jerusalem Chamber, then by "Milling Green," as we call the green in the middle of Cloisters where all the fights take place under the sacred shadow of the "Abbey(!)"; up to the right, past the Choristers' school, and Little Cloisters into Little Dean's Yard. Here are the masters' boarding-houses—"Grant's" and "Regaud's," as they are called—and the racquette courts. That arch to the left with so many names deeply cut in the stones, is the school door—the long building against whose side they are playing "wires," is College. Crossing the "wooden" * court we enter College, and glancing into the Upper and Under Election Rooms, where we sit and study, ascend to the Dormitory, a long, lofty and rather narrow room divided by wooden partitions into forty "houses," twenty on a side. Up the passage, it is said, our predecessors could pour water and make a slide during the winter; now, however, it is well warmed with hot-water pipes. The walls are covered with names, some of them famous, and on black tablets are the names of the Captains of the school, and the dates of their years. No small honour and only won after a year of tough work and weeks of examinations called "Challenges."

Here then they are preparing for the Play. The "houses,"

*These are the names of racquettes. The "wire" has a blade made of gut, tightly stretched over a light wooden frame, the handle being long and slender. The "wooden" is solid and shorter, and larger balls are used with it.

with the exception of about twenty near the door have been taken down to make room for the theatre. A partition has been raised to divide it from the rest of the Dormitory, at the top of which runs a plank about a foot wide, where the town-boys stand, and do the clapping—and hot work it is, I can tell you! Beneath the "gods," as it is called, comes the "strangers' gallery;" then, sloping down to the floor, the "Seniors' pit." The centre of the floor of the house is the place of honour, and there sit the masters and notable guests (all tickets are complimentary), while to the left is the "Masters' pit," and to the right, places for the ladies, and on the same side close to the stage the "Old Westminsters'" place. The stage, though small, is very brilliantly lighted, having more lights in proportion to its size, as the old chap who managed them used to tell us, than Drury Lane.

In the meantime, the Juniors and Second Elections have been disposed of—some in nooks and crannies under the "Seniors' pit," some behind the stage, some in the *Sanatorium*.

There are three representations of the Play. The first is little more than a dress-rehearsal, and has only the Prologue. The second and third are grand nights, when the Epilogue, written by some illustrious old Westminister, or occasionally by one of the masters, is put on the stage. After the two first nights we have oyster suppers, after the third a "grand spread."

College is in a state of excitement on the eve of the third night. "Lecture!" "Lecture!" "Lecture!" sounds from all quarters. Seniors and Third Elections calling for hot water and a dozen other things at the same time. Hard work it is "Light-the-fire" and "watch" of that day with the four large kettles that never will get hot, much less boil! Many are the threats of punishment, but Juniors and even Second-Elections lend a hand and the preparation is soon over in safety.

Now all are ready. Second Elections and Juniors in brand-new "College waicoots" and caps and gowns, immaculate shirt-fronts and spotless white ties and gloves. Third Elections and Seniors arrived at the dignity of tails. There are the "Ladies' Men"—"the most *au fait* at that sort of thing, you know" of all the men in College. Yet they blush as they offer their arms to conduct the fair ones to their places. Most of the ladies are provided with

"Bohn's publications, so useful
To the student of Latin and Greek."

so that they may comprehend some of the "points" of the Play.

The audience is coming in, and if you are a Junior and happen to be stationed at the door, not knowing the vast body of "Old Westminsters" you may make a mistake as I did, and say, "Ticket, sir?" to one of them. An indignant rebuke is shot at you from the eyes of the Superior, being, not without some pity in it for your sad ignorance, as he says "Ticket! Old Westminister, sir!" and you feel as if you had committed an unpardonable crime!

If, however, you should happen to have no station, and consequently nothing much to do, you may enjoy yourself extremely, especially if you are on sufficiently good terms with the chief "ladies" to come in for some ices and wafers.

"Big Ben" tolls eight, and shortly after the town-boys from the "gods" descry the Head Master entering from the Under-Master's house with his party. Immediately they clap, and the band plays "See the Conquering Hero." All being seated and the music over, a faint tinkle from the prompter's bell brings before the curtain the Captain, clad in the old Academic garb—knee-breeches, black silk stockings, buckled shoes, &c. He delivers the Prologue; not Terence's own, but one written for the occasion. It contains the Obituary, Westminister's Honours, and reference to improvements made or necessary. The Captain retires, the bell tinkles, up goes the curtain, and you see before you a street at Athens, with the Acropolis in the distance; on one side the house of Chremes, on the other that of Demiphio. Daous appears with his bag of money for Geta, and the Play (*The Phormio*) commences.

It is not necessary to give a full sketch of the plot for the readers of the GAZETTE. Two young men, Antiphio and Phaedria, become involved in difficulties; the former with a Lemnian (Phanium), whom he marries, the latter with a music girl, for whom Dorio, the "Ieno," wants thirty minae. They employ Gelta, the slave of Demiphio, Antiphio's father, and Phormio, a parasite indebted to the young men in the way of good living, to smooth down matters and get the thirty mine out of the old gentleman. The chief character of the play is Phormio, a favorable specimen of his class. He possesses unlimited "cheek," for what does he say in answer to Geta's fears about his success:—

Ph. Factum est periculum: jam pelam visa est via.
Quot me censes homines jam deverberasse usque ad necem,
Hospites, tum civis? quo magis novi, tanto serpius.
Celsolan, en unquam injuriam aulisti mihi scriptam dicam

But he is amiable and apparently grateful to his friends. Witness his words when he hears of the discovery that Chremes is Phanium's father:—

Ph. bene, ita me Di ment, factum: gaudes
Tantum fortunam de improvviso esse his datam.

Chremes and Demiphio have an amusing scene with Nansistrata, in which Chremes has to impart by hints to Demiphio, who is curiously thick-headed for the occasion, his discovery that Antiphio's wife is his own daughter. In the last scene but one the characters of the two brothers are admirably brought out—Demiphio willing to risk anything to save his money; Chremes, to save his reputation with his wife, afraid of that state of affairs which Phormio describes in the last scene, when he says:

Habet haec ei quod dum vivat usque ad aurem oggannat.

There are passages, too, which apply to our own time as well as to that of Terence. Is not Dorio's maxim the rule of modern society?

Mei lege utar ut peior sit qui prior abledum est.

Look at the clever scene where Demiphio consults the three advocates. Cratmiris gives one opinion, Hegio an opposite one; then

Cr. Ego amplius delibendum censeo;
Res magna est. Ut. Numquid nos via? *Dr.* Facistis probe;

and as they retire,

Incertior sum multo quam dudum.

Not a few can make the same remark after consulting present-day lawyers!

Perhaps, from a strong moral standpoint, plays in which young men plot with slaves and parasites against their fathers as do Phaedria and Antiphio, with success, are not all that could be desired. In the *Phormio*, however, there is compensation. Who but can rejoice that a wicked old bigamist like Chremes gets punished? Who regrets that avaricious Demiphio loses his thirty minae?

After the Play comes the Epilogue. Then the curtain falls; the caps go round; the audience depart; and the Queen's Scholars with some cries of "Lecture!" "Hot water!" &c.: for moustaches must be got off, and paint and powder washed away, before the actors are ready to attack the good things provided for them below stairs. As I said, after the third representation comes a "grand spread." At the head of the table sits the Captain, at its foot a Monitor. By the Captain are the "Old Westminsters," and the rest seat themselves anywhere. The edibles disappear, the champagne sparkles in the long, old-fashioned glasses, but does not remain there long. Supper over and honour due done to the Queen and Royal Family, the Captain calls for the "Floreat." The waiter brings the large silver tankard—a present to the School from Warren Hastings, its handles formed of massy silver elephants' heads with curling trunks,—filled with some not unpleasant brew. The Captain rises, speaks a few words, and as he lifts the cup to his lips, while the man on his right gets up his feet, repeats the formula "FLOREAT WESTMONASTERIENSIS!" And so it goes down the table, across from man to man, and each echoes the word, not only with his lips but in his heart, "FLOREAT!"

"Floreat!" indeed, may be the prayer of its Alumni for the grand old School that can trace its origin to the time of Edward the Confessor, and whose walls are covered with illustrious names, some of them the names of perhaps as great men as any that England ever had!

Let me pass over the songs and the retiring to bed, mentioning only an incident that occurred upon one occasion. The Under Master enters the Dormitory, the scholars stand in a line against the "houses," the Monitor of the week calls the names. Each answers "Sum" to his name. It comes to the turn of a Second-Election, who confidently answers "Sum" but shortly is *not!* For, in a moment of weakness, he confidently leans back against

the curtain which fills the place of a door, and lo! it deceives him. He disappears, taking with him his fall the entire washing apparatus of the occupant of the "house." The crash is tremendous, but we skilfully pick him out of the pool of water, from among the ruins of the jug and basin, and having first relieved him from the oppressive weight of the washstand! Nought says the master, but his compressed lips and stern glance betoken that our friend will go home on the morrow a sadder, if not a wiser man!

The next morning, bright and early, we leave the old College for our homes, anticipating "lots of fun" during our Christmas holidays.

Well, those days will never come back to us. We had our troubles, but they did not last long. We studied and rowed, played cricket, football or racquette; looked after the fires, got "tanned" for many offences; swept our seniors' studies; fought and seconded others; trained for athletics; had private "tea-fights," consuming unknown quantities of bread, jam, cocoa and cake; rejoiced over a "tip," were it guinea or half-crown; got into scrapes and out of them, and were true to each other to the last; were "handed" or flogged, took prizes or lost them; worshipped the brave and strong and skilful, despised the mean and cowardly—all in the same careless, happy-boy-spirit that has left us now. Glorious days! Living in a miniature world admirably calculated to make us *men*, fit to cope with the great outside world beyond, which we were soon to encounter!

And not the least happy of the recollections we have of our schooldays are those connected with the *PRAXY*.

Rex.

Canoes and Canoeing.

Of all the ways of spending a summer vacation, a canoe trip is, in my opinion, the pleasantest, affording as it does access to fishing and shooting grounds, and picturesque scenery impossible, or at any rate difficult of attainment in any other way, and being in itself a pleasant and healthful mode of travelling. Who eats his supper with a better appetite than the canoeist, after a long day's paddle? Who sleeps more soundly than he, as he lies rolled up in his blanket and dreams of the trout he has caught and the rapids he has shot during the day? Who feels in better trim for his day's work than he, after his morning swim and hearty breakfast.

Of all countries in the world perhaps Canada offers the most attractive cruising grounds, covered, as a great part of it is, with a complete network of lakes and rivers, in general well-stocked with fish, and affording splendid sport with rod, and at the proper season, with the gun.

There are three styles of canoe particularly applicable to pleasure cruising: the Birch Bark, the Rice Lake, and the Rob Roy.

All my readers are no doubt well-acquainted with the form and general properties of the first. Its lightness and the elasticity and toughness of its skin make it peculiarly adapted to the purposes for which it is required by its builder; it requires, however, long practice to become efficient in its management, more especially to become a good steersman, and a novice will generally make it rickety and leaky in a few days. With careful and skilful handling, however, it is wonderful what rapids it will descend, and what broad waters it will cross in safety. The best canoes of this description which I have ever seen, are those made by the Indians occupying the reserve at Bermsis River, in the county of Saguenay. These canoes are made in two thicknesses of bark gummed together, and will stand an immense amount of wear and tear.

Bark canoes should always be thickly varnished or painted, both to preserve the bark and to prevent its absorbing water. The difference between the weight of a wet and dry canoe consequent on this absorption is surprising.

The so-called Rice Lake canoes are made of very thin planks of bass-wood. Their weight is little more than that of a bark canoe of similar size, and they are more durable, swift and dry, and at the same time easier to manage. These canoes are made by Englis, of Peterborough, and Mason, of Lakefield.

The Rob Roy canoe, as designed and worked by Mr. MacGregor is, I think, the most perfect canoe yet built for the varied work of a cruise. It combines the lightness, handiness and speed of the Rice Lake with sea-going and sailing qualities which the latter does not possess.

In the Rob Roy Mr. MacGregor made a trip of great length and interest through the lakes and rivers of Norway and Sweden, from Christiana to Stockholm, even venturing far out into the Baltic Sea itself. Later he made a voyage through the Holy Land, paddling on the Jordan, the Sea of Galilee, the Abana and Pharpar, and other sacred waters. Many people object to this mode of travelling as lonely; this drawback is easily obviated by two canoes going in company, and this plan is, I think, much better than that of a larger canoe holding both persons.

Each man is complete master of his own canoe, and has an equal share of danger, responsibility and hard work, and if one is inclined to undertake a dangerous feat, he does not thereby imperil anyone but himself. If one canoe comes to grief in a wild country the other can still be used to go in search of assistance, or might even contain both persons until civilization is again reached. A long portage is more easily effected with two light canoes than with one heavy one. Lastly, the use of the double-bladed paddle is more simple and easily learned than that of the single.

The original Rob Roy was 14 feet long, 2 feet 2 in. wide, and 1 foot deep, decked over with the exception of a hatch in which the canoeist sat. Her weight with all her fittings was 71 lbs. She was built of oak with a deck of cedar. I don't see why white pine, bass-wood, or best of all cedar, would not answer as well. They would perhaps not have stood the rough usage to which Mr. MacGregor's canoe was subjected, but on the other hand a canoe built of either of these woods would be so superior in lightness, that such usage would be unnecessary, as instead of drawing it bodily along the ground as he did, a man would be able to carry it with ease. In Canada also, it would in many cases be impossible to obtain assistance in making a portage; and hence a canoe which was too heavy to be carried would be useless.

And now having discussed the three forms of canoe applicable to travelling in Canada, the next question is where to go. Montreal, situated as it is at the junction of our two largest rivers, the centre of our railway and steamboat systems, and a place where all necessities can be obtained, is well adapted for a starting point. One who has only three or four days to spare can pass them very pleasantly in circumnavigating the Island of Montreal—a trip which I with two friends accomplished successfully in October last. He will find pretty and varied scenery, and, at the proper time, fair fishing and shooting. A couple of weeks could be spent in ascending the Ottawa to the Capital, passing through the Rideau Canal to Kingston, and returning to Montreal by the St. Lawrence, through the lake of the Thousand Islands, and past its grand rapids.

If again he has more time, a cruise along the north shore of the St. Lawrence below Quebec, would amply repay him in magnificent scenery, invigorating sea breezes, and fine fishing.

Another pleasant tour would be to ascend the Ottawa and its tributary, the Mattawa source, near Lake Nipissing, to cross the latter lake and ascend the French River to Lake Huron, and finally to reach Collingwood, through the beautiful archipelago of the Georgian Bay.

A study of the map of the Dominion will suggest a variety of other voyages.

To anyone who really intends making a tour of this kind, I would recommend MacGregor's "Rob Roy on the Baltic" or Powell's "Canoe Travelling". In the appendices of these books he will find the details in the construction of Rob Roy canoes minutely described. In Canada, in addition to the outfit there given, the traveller would need a small tent, and would find a gun a useful article.

As to the best time of the year for canoeing, a trip leading one into the unsettled parts of the country should be taken not earlier than the middle of July, as the flies are sometimes unbearable in June and the first half of July.

On the lower St. Lawrence, however, these pests do not trouble one to any serious extent, and as the best run of sea trout takes place in the beginning of July, it is best to go about that time.

In conclusion, I may say that to any one desirous of building and fitting out a canoe, I shall be glad to give any assistance in my power, and I wish him on his voyage such health and enjoyment as I have always found on such occasions, and which will surely result from open air exercise, change of scene, and a diet of salt pork, biscuit and tea.

H. K. W.

Notes on the History of Science.

I.—EARLY EASTERN SCIENCE.

Had the Chinese been less exclusive and less superstitious, doubtless they would have been the civilizers of the world. It was among them that were developed the earliest forms of scientific observation for an advance of any other people. But instead of superstition being dissipated as time went on, it increased, owing to that exclusiveness on account of which they remained or ages almost entirely isolated from the rest of the world.

The most ancient written monuments possessed by the Chinese are the "Kings," ancient sacred books in which are found the secrets of their civilization. Ch'iu-Noung, a divine laborer who succeeded Fou-Hi, B. C. 3,218, taught the use of the plough to his people, and introduced the manufacture of common salt from sea water. He is credited with the invention of Medicine, and the authorship of an immense book on Plants. This wonderful prince is the first astronomer of whom we read; having, it is said, measured the earth, and found it one-eighteenth greater from East to West than from North to South.

Now, there is darkness over the discoveries of this peculiar people for nearly five hundred years, till under Hoang-Ti, a prince who flourished about 2,785 B. C., when they held communication with their neighbors, and imported many articles of use and luxury hitherto unknown. The ancient books say that this prince discovered an instrument which always pointed to the North, alluding evidently to the mariner's compass. He established the decimal system for linear and superficial measurement, and founded the first College of Astronomy, in which eclipses were studied, and time measured by clepsydra. For ages astronomy flourished, and with astonishment we learn that the Chinese savants had an exact knowledge of the Julian period as early as the reign of Yao, 2,357 B. C., who was himself a devotee to the science. The improvements in agriculture which were begun a thousand years before were not neglected; the cultivation of crops was not left to the caprice of the cultivator, but the Government, through the "Minister of Agriculture," directed the cultivation and watched the production of the land. We read of Chin, a successor of Yao, directing his minister, Heou-Tsi, to extend the cultivation of corn, rice, pennis (a sort of millet), sorghum, peas, beans, hemp and cotton. Heou-Tsi was instrumental in introducing new methods of culture, and in perfecting the old.

Natural history was not neglected, for we find a book on it, the Chan-Hai-King, consisting of two hundred and sixty volumes, which is attributed to Yu, who reigned 2,200 before our era. In it the descriptions are often exact and picturesque, the style simple, but like all other relics of ancient science it is sadly mixed up with fables and superstitions; it is a report of the progress of science for the three preceding reigns. It is probable this book is not of such great antiquity, but it is certainly much anterior to anything in Europe.

The Chinese had a knowledge of anatomy from a very early date, but their books are full of errors, although they carried with them the spirit of very minute observation. Circulation of the blood was also known, and they calculated the rate at which it flows in the arteries under various circumstances of modes of life, age, sex and disposition. They have left a number of treatises on the pulse, which they studied, and certain conditions of which they considered sure diagnostics in various diseases. The Government at all times patronized advancement in science, especially in the "Healing Art." Many ages before our era a governor in a province having captured forty brigands, caused them to be put to death, by having their abdomens opened, all for the cause of science; painters being deputed to picture their viscera, and medical men to use the knives of execution. That called by the Chinese the modern period of medicine, dates back to 200 B. C. Many ages prior to this Tcha-tchin introduced into Europe the practice of medicine as known at this time. But at last a time arrived when letters were persecuted. In the year B. C. 221, 'Tsing-chi-houang-ti' sent forth a proscription ordering all books to be burned, except those on Anatomy, Physiology and Medicine.

The cultivation of tea dates far back, and the properties of the silkworm, known first in Europe in the time of Pliny the Naturalist, were known two thousand years previous in China.

Annals, written in the time of Yao, a little more than 2,300 before our era, contain a description of the Deluge. By reference we see that this was written shortly after the date assigned to it by Archbishop Usher, B. C. 2,349.—They regarded it as a partial inundation, and not as a universal cataclysm, of which they appear to have had no idea.

"The scientific course of pursuit among the Chinese is posi-

five; they stop before what appears to them impossible, and their theories, although mixed with prejudices, have always a positive side."

Their philosophy is essentially pantheistic. It is comprised in the Y-King, a book of the "Unity," on which Kong-fu-Tse, 550 B. C., is the last commentator. It considers the monad combined with itself as constituting the diad and triad, and even all phenomena. All combinations are reduced to two principles: the "Yang, light or movement, and the Yu, darkness or quiet," and the whole called "Reason," which recalls the "Absolute," of modern philosophy. Leibnitz did not know that the Y-King contained part of his system, twenty-five centuries before he invented his monads.

As Hindoo literature has been studied for only sixty years by us, and as the difficulty of deciphering the Sanscrit manuscripts is very great, its richness is little known. Of an encyclopædic collection, known as the Vedas, only fragments remain; but these carry us back to 1,400 B. C., and comprise treatises on Medicine, Surgery, Botany, Mineralogy, History of Animals, Astronomy, and Mechanical Arts. The theory of atoms, revived later by the Greeks, belonged to their physical school called Kanadas. We owe to the Hindoos the numerical signs which we call Arabic ciphers. The Arabs borrowed Algebra from the Hindoos, who for some time had been deeply occupied in numerical calculations. Again, the invention of the game of Chess is ascribed to them. We know nothing of their external intercourse, nor of the cause of the decadence of science among them.

Their ancient philosophy, according to the school of Brahma—Mimansa, is pantheistic, and shows an attentive observation of natural phenomena and evolution of species. Life is an emanation and death an absorption. All phenomena are accomplished in the breast of the Infinite. Speaking of Brahm: Cosmology, Manou says, "Alternately asleep and awake, constantly he creates all that moves and all that does not, afterwards he annihilates and dwells himself unchangeable; there are worlds developed without end, creations and destructions; Brahma does all for this pastime, himself the greatest Creator."

The Babylonians and Assyrians have a strong similarity to the Hindoos in their religion, in the division of the people into castes, and in what written knowledge they possess being deposited in the archives of the religious orders. They must have had a considerable knowledge of physical science, having built large and beautiful cities, splendid monuments, gigantic towers, large canals, hanging gardens. They were masters of the commercial world; they lived for the present (necessity or luxury as the case might be), and like commercial communities in all ages have not left one great thought to perpetrate their memory.

The Chaldeans cultivated Astronomy and made it part of their religion, confounding it with Astrology. As early as B. C. 700, they observed and studied the eclipse of the moon. Medicine was cultivated, and from them, it is said, Hippocrates obtained some excellent notions of Therapeutics.

Scientific knowledge among the Medes and Persians was little more advanced than among their sister nations. However, there is left the remains of an encyclopædia of religious thought, the "Zend-Avesta," in which are found some treatises on numerical philosophy, medicine, influence of planets on man's life, on quadrupeds allowed to be eaten, tableaux of the infirmities to which man and beasts are subject, and essays on humanity. Zoroaster, the Mede and supposed founder of the Magian religion, has left some ideas of the formation of mountains by elevation; this being the earliest mention of geological speculation of which we have record apart from the Mosaic cosmogony.

The Egyptians, the descendants of a colony from Upper Ethiopia or one conquered by the Ethiopians, had the doctrines of the Indus deeply impressed on them. They were divided into five castes. Scientific instruction was mysteriously confined to the temples, and everything tended to keep the masses in darkness. But we must admire the high state of civilization and deep study existing among them when we consider their public institutions, vast works and gigantic monuments built under the direction of their chiefs. The art of embalming, pursued so long, required a profound knowledge of anatomy, initiated those practising it into an intimate acquaintance with the viscera, muscles, and bones. The present system in Britain of requiring pharmaceutical preparations to be made according to prescribed formulæ, had its origin, slightly modified, among the ancient Egyptians. Their physicians were allowed to use only those remedies recognized by law, and if one did not comply, and the patient died, then the man of the healing art, if captured, was put to death.

From both the animal and vegetable kingdoms the Egyptians took emblems of adoration and contempt. In their hieroglyphs

many are accurately represented. Lattreille has recognized several insects, particularly *Scarabæus Sacer*, whose characters are scrupulously represented. The necessities of re-division the fields after the recession of the Nile, led them to the study of geometry; and afterwards applying this to astronomy, they recognized the solar year, B. C. 1,325; and this mathematical mode of studying it led to the decay of judicial astrology. Indications of a very limited knowledge of geology, mineralogy, and metallurgy, are to be found represented by some of their hieroglyphics. The treatises on alchemy assigned to Hermes Trismegistus (to whom the authorship of a vast number of works on philosophy and religion is attributed) were probably the result of the midnight oil of the Alexandrine savants. But they had an advanced knowledge of industrial chemistry. They manufactured enamels and porcelain, and knew the composition of fast and brilliant colours. Much of their knowledge perished with them when they were conquered by the Persians, for we do not find it extending to the Greeks.

As war, conquest, servitude and rod of persecution are often the means of diffusing light, so it was among the Hebrews: from being a simple pastoral people on entering Egypt, they left it with all Egyptian knowledge. The classification by Moses of animals into clean and unclean, although somewhat erroneous, shows an intimate acquaintance with Natural History. The Bible mentions seventy species of plants now known. The Egyptian kings were the most learned men of the nation, likewise the Hebrew kings had the same reputation. Solomon is said to have known all vegetables, animals of the earth, birds, reptiles and fishes; and the alchemists claim him to have known all occult science, and the transmutation of metals, in which way they account for the quantity of gold in the temple. The Hebrews were chiefly an agricultural people, cultivating corn, vegetables, oranges, grapes, dates, olives, pomegranates, figs and flax, and raising many asses, cattle, sheep and camels. They were familiar with metallurgy, and largely manufactured coats of mail and chariots of iron. But their national vicissitudes put an end to all scientific advancement.

Of the Phœnicians we know little, although they were a powerful maritime nation, and were almost entirely engrossed in commerce. They worked considerably in the metals, and used much tin in making bronze. To their philosopher Cadmus, son of Agenor, king of Phœnicia, is attributed the invention of writing, and the introduction into Greece of an alphabet of sixteen letters, and of the science of mining; but whether he was a Phœnician, Egyptian, or even a Pælagian divinity, is disputed. The works assigned to Sanchuniathon, high priest of Tyre, are now regarded as a forgery. Thus this powerful nation has passed away and left absolutely not one monument of learning, however simple, and makes another most striking example of the oblivion into which exclusively commercial communities, or even nations, fall.

This sketch of earliest science, brief and fragmentary as it is, suffices to show us that the East, as it was the cradle of the human race, so was it also the land in which were sown the first seeds of science, which, after lying dormant through the cold darkness of the middle ages, have only lately, under the warmth of the noontday sun, sprung up and bid us look forward to a plentiful harvest. J. W. S.

For much of the above information contained in these notes, the writer is indebted to Charles D'Orbigny.

The University Literary Society.

The regular meetings of the Society commenced on the 9th. Instead of an analysis of the debate we give a report of Mr. Jenkins's lecture.

The chief event of the month was the delivery by Mr. Edward Jenkins, on the 16th, of his much-abused lecture "The England of To-day." We must say that we were pleasantly disappointed with the character of the lecture. From what has appeared in our city papers we were led to expect a ranting tirade against England, of no literary merit whatever; instead of which we enjoyed one of the greatest literary treats we have had the good fortune to listen to in this city. The introduction was a splendid piece of word-printing, and though we cannot quite agree with some of the views expressed by him, still we are bound to say that the earnestness and sincerity with which he delivered himself are well calculated to carry conviction with them. Mr. Jenkins takes it for granted that we have been told of England's vast manufacturing enterprises, of her extensive galleries of art, of her

far-reaching public and private charities, of her noblemen whose lives are devoted to the work of elevating her people. He merely glanced at her park-surrounded palaces, peered into her "busy factories where man, wrapped in primitive dirt, asserts his mastery over matter," and then proceeded to notice the chief points which stand out in the condition of England as knotty problems for her statesmen to solve to-day. Prominent amongst these is vested interest, the crown, the aristocracy, the church, the clergy, the liquor-sellers, the army, the navy, the bench and bar, railways, schools—one and all have their vested interests. You cannot legislate in any direction without driving against these obstructive interests. Hence reform in England and in this new country, however alike in principle, is in practice a far different thing. Here society yields more readily to the exigencies of change. In Great Britain principles are advanced against tremendous opposition, their adoption is slow, and their adaptation not only laborious but difficult. In proportion to the number of vested interests existing in a country, is it locked up from freedom; and as the action of the majority of the people is restrained by the privileges of the minority, so is its advancement to a healthy and pure political life impeded. It is a millstone hung round the neck of society; it is like Simbad's old man, which clings round the shoulders of a nation with ever-tightening grasp. Such interests must exist to some extent wherever human societies are, but the aim of wise statesmen and of wise people will be to keep or reduce them to a minimum and to allow them the very shortest tether. Foremost amongst these vested interests is the Established Church, and when he spoke of the Established Church he spoke of it as a political institution and not as a Christian body. This Church, endowed with \$90,000,000 worth of property, its Bishops sitting in the House of Peers, its clergy of every grade scattered over the country, prescribes in rural districts the religion of the people, manages the endowed schools, and its graveyards, which are necessarily those of the parish, are closed against all services except its own. Its schools are the principal medium of education in England, and it is not only politically powerful, but not to belong to it is a social disability, and it requires considerable strength of mind to be a dissenter in a country parish. This mighty institution is only equalled in political power by its strange ally, the Licensed Victuallers' Association. Great, also, in England is the power of privilege. After dwelling on this as so length, he too's occasion to enforce the necessity of every citizen performing his duty as such by voting for the wisest man to fill the best places. If this wholesome principle were acted upon they would hear less about the tyranny of majorities. If, he said, you would become a really great nation, supreme in liberality and might, instill into your hearts the true, holy pride of patriotism which regards no sacrifice as too extreme, no gift too rich, no energy, no zeal, too extravagant for your country. He then went on to describe the sufferings and sorrows of the lowest and most numerous class of the people—the agricultural labourers. Giving us the creeds of knowing all about the souls that have been saved, and the mouths that have been fed, and the intellects that have been awakened and stimulated by the clergy of the Established Church, he showed how that Church stands to-day in the path of progress. He did not charge the Church and the aristocracy with having produced the evils he pictured, but he did charge them with standing in the path of progress and resisting reforms. Mr. Jenkins did not mount the platform to philosphize on the relations between employer and employed in England, he did not mount the platform to judicially weigh the good and evil in English life in the balance, make comparisons with the good and evil elsewhere, and oracularly announce to which side the scale turned. His purpose is to show how great are the sufferings of the farm labourers, how hopeless is their condition, and how mighty are the obstacles that stand in the path of the man who seeks to elevate the farm labourer so that his honest toil may keep him from starvation or the poorhouse, before despair shall make of him a revolutionist. The only hope for him is immigration. The lecturer regarded the threatened decay of imperial sentiment as the greatest danger to the greatness of England. The decay was only threatened however. There had been an outbreak of feeling against the proposal to separate from any of the colonies that showed where the hearts of the people were. He then enumerated the great reforms which have been effected since the beginning of this century, associating with them the names of Wilberforce, Cobden, Bright, Russell and Gladstone. It indicated great strength and vitality in a country that goes on developing and increasing her commerce and manufactures while great internal revolutions like these are in progress. But reform has yet great things to do. The past has left a dreadful legacy of vital problems to master, and the true reformer is at work on them. Mr. Jenkins concluded with a peroration on reform.

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE,

Published by the Undergraduates of McGill University,
on the First of every month of the Session.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

J. S. McLENNAN, P. H. CHANDLER,
STUART JENKINS, AND E. LAFLÈRE,
JOHN D. CLINE, P. A.
W. SIMPSON WALKER.

The GAZETTE requests contributions of tales, essays, and all suitable literary matter from University men. It will open its columns to any controversial matter connected with the College, provided the communications are written in a gentlemanly manner.

All matter intended for publication must be accompanied by the name of the writer in a sealed envelope, which will be opened if the contribution is inserted, but will be destroyed if rejected. This rule will be strictly adhered to.

All literary matter must be in the hands of the committee on the 15th of each month, unless special arrangements are made with the committee before that date.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

W. B. DAWSON, TREASURER, J. S. HALL, SECRETARY.

A "Canadian."

In the Montreal *Gazette* of the 23th ultimo, appears a letter in reference to the University Literary Society, and one of its critics, who, in a preceding issue of that paper, finds fault with the Society for allowing Mr. Edward Jenkins to lecture under their auspices; the reason being that Mr. Jenkins made some remarks derogatory of Canadian education. Our "Canadian," constituting himself the guardian of the reputation of the University Literary Society, defends Mr. Jenkins from this charge, at least such is his purpose, and he wanders along in a maze of meaningless adjectives, and unemphatic italics with this object in view, until the end of his first paragraph is reached. Then he makes the following extraordinary statement, extraordinary at least as coming from a member of a society which admits only members of our University to its numbers: "I acknowledge Toronto University produces scholars of a polished education that might excite the envy of Oxford, and am sorry the same lustre has not yet been shed around the students of McGill." The remark may be out of place, but it is irresistible, that if his letter is the production of a mind which has received a polished education, the only institution of learning of which he could "excite the envy" is a village school.

McGill men are not so sensitive to remarks of this kind as to rush into a defence of their College. If any one thinks with "Canadian" that McGill is inferior to Toronto, let him compare the curricula of the two universities, and we will abide by the result. What we wished to call attention to, was the officiousness of "Canadian," who, rushing into print in answer to a letter which might better be passed over in silence, takes the opportunity to insult the institution to which he belongs. He may in letter be a member of the University, but in spirit he is not, and therefore has no right to write as the exponent of the views of the Society, which, as we said before, admits to its membership only the students and graduates of the University. Were 'his views those of the Society? We are confident an exposition of them would result in the withdrawal of the names of our undergraduates from the Society. Once there were two societies in the College. On the solicitation of the graduates who were unable to keep up meetings without some help, the undergraduates united with them under the name of the University Literary Society. What

University? Our friend "Canadian" says not McGill—*o puer ingenuosus!* If he expresses the opinions of the graduate members of the Society (we are sure he does not), the students had better once again form an undergraduate society. We can have one without outside assistance. If we should withdraw, the University Literary Society, even with the literary talent of "Canadian" to support it, would soon degenerate into what its enemies say it is now—a Lecture Bureau.

A Proposition from Harvard.

A late number of the *Harvard Advocate* argues in favour of an Inter-University athletic contest, similar to the Oxford-Cambridge meeting in England.

The writer shows that such a scheme could easily be carried into effect,—in fact, the success of the annual Collegiate Regatta is sufficient proof that a meeting of the students of American colleges can be carried out without any considerable difficulty; and that the competition would be severe, the large number of entries at Springfield last season, shows beyond dispute. Our Athletic Meeting last fall shows, too, that with moderate expense, an athletic meeting can take place at one college, and not a very large one, a most enjoyable day can be spent, and the performances be equal to those achieved at more promiscuous gatherings. The inter-collegiate meeting, of course, presents somewhat more difficulty, but not of an insurmountable character. It would give us great pleasure to see such a meeting come off, and if a Canadian college could be allowed to compete, McGill could send down some men who, if not so successful as Bowie was at Springfield, would show that the being on a different side of a boundary line from most of the competitors, does not interfere with the development of strength or swiftness.

While we write this we remember that in an American college paper there appeared an account of the Bennett Cup Race, reflecting on Bowie's *status* and his performance, in so ungentlemanly a way, that it reflected rather on the character of the writer than on our College. A correction was sent to them, but never acknowledged. This, however, was an exception to the way in which Mr. Bowie was treated; still it left an unpleasant impression in regard to the treatment we might receive in endeavouring to promote a friendly feeling between the colleges of the United States and ourselves by joining in their athletic contests. We believe, however, should an athletic meeting take place, and McGill send representatives, that they would be treated with the same courtesy as Mr. Bowie was at Springfield by the students. We trust that it will come off, and if not for the first time on Canadian ground, that future years will see it occur at McGill.

Review.

"MCGILL COLLEGE AND ITS MEDALS."—Alfred Sandham, Montreal, 1873.

The absence of any particular interest in the book on which he has to pronounce his verdict is indispensable to the successful performance of the duties of the literary critic. He should neither be prejudiced against the productions of a particular writer or school, nor should he be blind to the faults of others to which his sympathies may extend; in other words he should not be influenced in his criticisms by any of those prejudices or predilections in which ordinary readers may, without censure, indulge. We must confess that our mind was not in that unbiased condition when we took up the book, the title of which stands at the head of this article. We had heard that it was to be published, and we looked forward with some expectation to its appearance, for we understood that both in literary and mechanical execution, it was to be a credit to the University. There were some objections to the appearance of any book on the subject, and others to such a book by its writer, but these were not then considered important, nor perhaps under other circumstances would they have

become so; accordingly with a predisposition in its favour, we awaited the publication of the book.

Then we saw that "McGill College and its Medals" was a book of about one hundred pages, printed only on one side, containing some good photographs of the medals, a sketch of the College history, and was bound in white with gilt-edged leaves.

The editor of this little compilation is careful in his preface to state that he has an object, in fact two objects, in view in writing this book: first, "to furnish the friends of McGill College with a reliable account of its origin and subsequent progress;" and, secondly; "to supply additional information on the subject of Canadian Numismatics." The reader must be careful to bear this in mind, or lack of charity may cause him to suggest as a reason for the appearance of the book, a desire on the part of the writer to discover the greatest number of pages over which the minimum of matter may be spread; or, perchance, he may think that the craving for notoriety, far too common in our time, has led the compiler, for we cannot call him author, to "make" a book with insufficient material and on a subject entirely out of his province.

The only new information furnished on the history of the University is a few details of the life of our founder, the Honourable Mr. McGill, and a list of its former Principals. With these exceptions, this "reliable account of its origin and subsequent progress" contains nothing which may not be found in the calendar expressed with greater conciseness, and adorned by no meretricious externals.

With regard to his second object, we scarcely care to hazard an opinion in opposition to that of our writer, who is a member of so many numismatic societies; but it certainly appears to us that seven medals, designed and executed by Wyon, of London, hardly furnish sufficient grounds for a treatise on *Canadian Numismatics*; nor can a description of them, two or three pages long, even when accompanied with photographs, give sufficient "additional information on the subject" to justify the publication of a book.

Even if the reader has remembered the objects as stated in the preface, he may, after a perusal of the book, have forced on his mind a grave suspicion that they were the ostensible objects, and one of the hypotheses mentioned before, the real cause of this appearance of Mr. Sandham in print. Such was our conclusion; but on mature consideration we decided that another and a different cause from those he states, and those we surmise, was the true one. Mr. Sandham has written, "Montreal Past and Present" and "Coins of Canada." Feeling the divine fire of authorship impelling him to write, he cast about for a subject; judging from his former books, an alliterative title was a necessity, and we are thus led to think that he chose our College and its medals as a subject, not because he could say something new or interesting about it, nor because it was fitting or proper that he should write on it, but simply because the concatenation of liquids gave him the style of title he desired, and he was suffering from *cacoethes scribendi*—a disease as irritating to others as to himself. As he expresses himself in a favourable manner concerning the College we assume he is a well-wisher to it; whether this attempt of his to bring her before the public will advance her interests, or increase her reputation, is a question we leave to the reader to decide.

McGill has as yet no history of sufficient interest to the public to justify the appearance of this book. Older than the majority of colleges on this continent, she is yet not old enough to have historical or literary associations with the past; her work and interest lie in the present and the future. The past has proved that she is able to take the place we claim for her—the first college in the Dominion—and any account of it would only have in view the gratification of an idle curiosity. We need scarcely say this has been a painful criticism to write, and we will close it by hoping that in the future, when another history of the College comes before the then critic of the GAZETTE, he can give it a larger meed of praise than we, strongly as we desire it, can accord to "McGill College and its Medals."

Coming Lectures.

As Dr. Hayes lectures before the University Literary Society on the 9th, 10th and 11th inst., on those subjects in connection with which his name has become famous, we purpose giving a sketch of what he has accomplished in this direction.

Graduating at the Medical Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 1853, he sailed within a month with Dr. Kane on his last Arctic voyage, the second Grinnell Expedition. It will

be remembered that the expedition reached almost to 81° N., or rather a member of it, Morton, accompanied by an Esquimaux, made a sledge journey from the "Advance" to this point. On this expedition Dr. Hayes made a journey on the West coast and discovered Grinnell's Land. They returned in 1855, and for four years Dr. Hayes, by lecturing and writing, endeavoured to interest the people of the United States in Arctic exploration. He was enabled by the assistance of private citizens, Boards of Trade, and the Geographical Societies of London and Paris, to sail to the North again in 1860. This voyage was made in a small schooner, and while successful in reaching the Polar Sea, also gave much valuable information concerning these regions. Dr. Hayes and Mr. Wilson, a member of the expedition, ascended the great Greenland Mer de Glace, and by his observations established the truth of the theory of glaciers held now by most scientific men. His great feat, however, was his journey across Kennedy's Channel, accompanied by a single companion. He travelled 1,300 miles, and reached lat. 82 35 min. on land, the highest point ever reached.—Parry reaching, however, 83° on the ice. On the return of the expedition the scientific world conferred honours on Hayes in recognition of his services to science, and the courage and skill he displayed on his journey. The Geographical Societies of London and Paris awarded to him their gold medals for scientific research, and most of the European Scientific Societies elected him an honorary member. In 1869 he accompanied Bradford to Baffin's Bay, where he obtained those photographs with which he illustrates his lectures.

He has written accounts of both his voyages with the titles, "An Arctic Boat Journey," and "The Open Polar Sea," and if his lectures are written in the same style, those who will hear him will have a rare treat. We would refer any one interested in this subject to a paper in the *North American Review*, by Dr. Hayes, and we would recommend every one not to lose this opportunity of hearing him lecture.

The following lecturers speak before the Society during February, March and April: DeCordova on February 23rd and 24th; Parsons, in April, on "Michael Angelo" and "George Stephenson;" Wendell Phillips, on 11th and 12th March, on "Lost Arts" and "Street Life in Europe;" and Procter, the astronomer, at a date not yet fixed. From this it can be seen that the Society presents a fine list of lectures for the remainder of the season.

University Notes.

MR. E. M. TAYLOR has been obliged to resign from the staff of the GAZETTE. For the rest of the session the work will be carried on by the other members of the Committee.

THE Rifle Companies marched out on Friday night. With the thermometer at 13° below, they must have enjoyed themselves.

THE Valedictorians have been chosen in all the Faculties but Law. They are: arts, McLemian; science, C. Harvey; medicine, mines.

C. H. McLEOD, B.A. Sc., has been appointed to the Observatory.

We have received the following exchanges:—"Harvard Advocate," "Cornell Era," "Dalhousie Gazette," "College Journal," "Western Collegian," "Central Collegian," "Emory Banner," Dartmouth; "Queen's College Journal," "Galt College Times," "Vassar Miscellany," "Helmuth College Journal."

Literary Items.

We see that NORMAN LOCKYER, the great English authority on Spectrum Analysis, has published a new book, "Contributions to Solar Physics." The French Academy of Sciences have elected him an associate member in the place of the late astronomer, ENCKE.

MR. BROWNING will soon give us another play upon a Greek subject.

SIR ARTHUR HELPS has a new book on the "History of the Russian Court."

PHILIP VERNON SMITH has just published a work on the "History of English Institutions." It is too short, and he omits several important institutions, at least so says the *Athenaeum*.

A forthcoming volume on the "History of the English Drama," by Prof. A. W. WARD, is announced. This is a subject on which comparatively little has been written, and coming as it does from the pen of so eminent a scholar cannot fail to secure favorable reception.

Wickets in the West.

Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit.

Time.—A scorching afternoon in the first week of September, the year of *Grace*, 1873.

Scene.—Inside "the Hut," on the Cricket ground; half a dozen men in flannels in the easiest positions, with an equal number of soda-water glasses of "shandy-gaff," a monotonous stillness prevails in this "tobacco-parliament," such as is consequent on a couple of hours' play on a capital crease, the consciousness of having held your wicket fairly for the usual twenty minutes, and a regular *dolce far niente* feeling produced by the fact of its being 90° in the shade.

"Oh, for a little one-story thermometer,

With nothing but zeros all ranged in a row!

Oh, for a big double-barrelled hydrometer,

To measure the moisture that drips from my brow!

Oh, for a soda-fount spouting up hotly

From every hot lamp-post against the blue sky!

Oh, for a proud maiden to look on me coldly,

Freezing my soul with a glance of her eye!

A cab rattles up; enter the Secretary with a telegram: "I say, you fellows, Toronto wants to play us next Friday and Saturday on their own ground." It was too hot to grow enthusiastic, at least outwardly, but half a dozen "all rights" settled it. The Eleven is chosen there and then—business must excuse several of the best men, so substitutes are notified—and the team leaves on Wednesday night. But on that afternoon Toronto wires that a previous engagement prevents them meeting us on the days named; however, after a few *cursey* remarks and a great deal of fresh correspondence by telegraph, the date is finally fixed for Monday and Tuesday following; so Pinkney gets orders to have our traps down in time for Saturday night's Western. The *depot* is crowded, every one wishes us success—*All aboo-ord*—we jump on the platform of the Pullman, exchange cheers frantically, watch the lights lessen in the distance, and then hunt up our sections, secure our pipes, and eleven fellows crowd into a compartment intended to hold half a dozen! Song and story succeed each other, and in this line the younger members rather astonish the veterans; much consumption of "bacsy"—half an hour for supper—then the sensible ones go to perch, but yarns and choruses keep on, and it is at a most heathenish hour before Morpheus claims the Entire eleven for his own. Breakfast and a rain-storm are announced together; the first is soon discussed, but the Union Station is reached and still the latter makes us miserable. No one to welcome us at the station—strange, we thought—but a jolly good wash and a capital dinner at our hotel, made each of us feel all seraphic. The weather continued moist all day, and we killed time by lounging in the easiest chairs we could find, and speculating on the match of the morrow. Most gloriously did old Sol shew up next morning, and in the best possible spirits we donned our flannels and hunted up the Cricket Ground; it was in fine order, the crease might have been improved upon, but the out-field was capital, while the club-house with its dressing-rooms, stands, &c., was just what the M. C. C. should have for themselves. The report of the matches has been duly chronicled in the daily papers; suffice it to say we were out-bowled, out-batted, and out-fielded; and our two days' match ended in an easy victory for Toronto. Nothing daunted we challenged for the return match, which came off on the Tuesday, and again did victory perch on the Toronto willow, at a time too when we had the match in our own hands; but the "glorious uncertainty of the game" shewed itself, and their score gradually overtopped ours, leaving us beaten on each day's play. While at lunch on the se-

cond day, a telegram was handed our captain, and he read out a challenge from the Colborne C. C. We had made up a party to "do the Falls," but our cricket proclivities triumphed over our desire to see Niagara—we had been there before—and so the night-watchman called us in time for the early train, and a few hours' riding saw us deposited at Grafton Station. The cricketers there met us at the cars, drove us and our traps up to the ground, gave us lunch, waxed us nicely in one inning, dined us at the hotel afterwards, and to wind up with, saw us to the station in time to catch the evening Express and sent the Eleven off, each and every member being ready to solemnly declare that at Colborne was to be found the best cricket, the prettiest ground, and the jolliest fellows that had been met on this trip. Perhaps it was the decided contrast to the way we had been treated in Toronto; there, no one met us at the station, took us to the ground even, or even said "good-bye" before we left, while we were asked to lunch, and asked to pay for it too—as for a dinner—well, we dined at our own table at the "Rossin." Cricket is supposed to be essentially the game to bring men into more intimate and friendly relations; we became so very intimate that we question if one member of our team remembers the names of half their Eleven. We grant that possibly—and we have their word for it—the Toronto Cricket Club could not afford to lunch eleven men who had travelled nearly 700 miles to meet them; but certainly for their cavalier treatment, their actual want of common courtesy, we fail to make for them even a shadow of an excuse. We must apologize for this digression, but in the mental notes of this trip, our reception by the Toronto C. C. has ever been unpleasantly prominent.

We said our Eleven left Colborne true, but only half of them returned home—some going to visit friends farther West, while we were forcibly detained and carried off by two fellow-colleagues, Medicals, who had played on the Colborne team, and in fact, won the match for their side. Our Railway ticket was only good for a week, but that was a mere bagatelle, so we borrowed an Ulster coat, climbed into the trap, and composed ourselves for a 30 mile drive. As a supplement to such steady cricket, we now finding ourselves in jolly Country Quarters, devoted ourselves equally hard to boating, fishing, driving, &c., and dress clothes being hunted up, we went in mildly for "the light fantastic,"—but our time was soon up. College opens in a day or two, and so our *an revoirs* are said, and we soon found ourselves in Colborne, caught the night Mail and got back home in time for a late lunch the next day. On our appearance up at the Cricket ground the same afternoon, we had to stand no end of chaff; but as Ottawa had been easily beaten a few days before, the sarcastic remarks on our success up West, were not quite so pitiless as those which I had been showered on the fellows who came straight home. Our whole trip was a success, and looking back now, we can even forgive the Toronto Club their sins of omission and commission, although they seemed to forget the old saw, *Victoria concordia crescit*. Such foreign matches as these help wonderfully to foster the cricket spirit among us—and our only drawback in Montreal is the distance which has to be travelled before we can meet any other club worthy of our steel.

We have taken the title of our sketch this month from Mr. R. A. Fitzgerald's brilliant little book, descriptive of the visit of a team of the Gentlemen Players of England to this country in 1872. In it he tells us how "The Twelve" visited Canada and the United States, playing a series of matches, and that, added to the natural excitement of the game, was a keen enjoyment of the whole trip. Each place and each inning is described, and from these observations we learn how to place our cricketing qualifications. The Canadian batting was weak, the fielding anything but first-rate, while the bowling proved to be better than had been anticipated. We also read about their hearty appreciation of the invariable kindness with which they were treated, and how the prospect of seeing Niagara Falls was one of the charms of the expedition, and it is also hoped that their visit would improve and give an impetus to Canadian cricket. On this very subject we have had several letters from Mr. Fitzgerald, and had great pleasure in assuring him how thoroughly it had stirred up our Colleges and Public Schools, and that the chick of the bat is heard far more often than ever before; and, to still further encourage and promote the love of this essentially English game, we have a paper from him "to put fairly the claims of cricket before the young athletes of your University; as no cricketer, I am sure, will deny me the merit of trying my best to advance the true interests of his favorite game;" and in our next, we will have much pleasure in publishing in full our article from the secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club.

R.

Fergus MacIver.

(Continued.)

The unpleasantness with the Faculty gave Fergus great pain. He felt that it was impossible for him to take as many gold medals as he had at first counted on; and ambition of his earlier years was thwarted, and he felt that, even in his native village, he would not be the hero he had been. These and other considerations so preyed upon his mind, that he persuaded himself that his health was failing him; and when one morning, after a short and troubled rest, he awoke with a sore-throat and a headache, he determined to go home and die in the bosom of his family.

He sadly packed his trunk and prepared to leave; and when he paid his landlady and bought his ticket, and found that he had only fifty cents left, a feeling like that of the prodigal son came over him. Would his father meet him afar off at the Darleton Railway Station, and fall on his neck and weep and drive him home in the grand old gig—or should he have to foot it those five dreary winter miles, leaving his trunk behind, more like the prodigal son than ever? Sad, doubting thoughts like these thronged Fergus's brain, as he took his seat in the car beside a middle-aged school-mistress, in the 5:30 train. He had written a long and truthful account of his difficulty more than a week back, but had received no answer; and it had seemed to him of late that the parental feeling was not so hearty as it had been in the earlier years of his college life. So Fergus proceeded on his way and, overcome with fatigue, he slept.

Fergus was rudely awakened from his doze in the railway carriage. There was a slight accident; and Fergus found himself thrown violently against an elderly man in front, his nose coming in contact with the bald head of the latter. Then the women screamed and the men swore, and the middle-aged school-ma'am was about to faint in Fergus's arms; but the blood gushed from his nose, quietly ruining a new and faultless paper dicky which he had put on at noon. The school-ma'am seeing this, stopped short and fainted, at a great disadvantage, on the shoulder of the bald-headed man on the front seat. The train gradually stopped and the passengers gazed at each other with pale and anxious faces. Fortunately, however, it turned out that it was a very second rate accident; a couple of cars had been thrown off the rails, that was all; no one was killed and very few wounded, and none so seriously as our hero. He manfully staunch the blood, and after two or three hours' necessary delay, took his place with the rest in an empty freight car which was to take them to their destination.

Fergus luckily was near home when this took place; and when he arrived at the station, he found that this took place; and the accident had preceded him; and so, with his very interesting appearance, he had no difficulty in finding a good-hearted fellow to drive him over to his father's.

Donald Iver MacIver sat by the fire which smouldered on the great hearth in the homestead of the MacIvers. It was very late, and his wife and bairns had long since gone to bed; but he still sat deep in his chair; his son's letter lay near him on the floor unheeded; his third tumbler of toddy stood all cold within his reach; the fire, as it ever and anon flared up, singed his beef-moccasins and honest tweed; but he heeded not, for he was musing deeply on the ways of Providence with regard to his son. Suddenly, the dog started up from the chimney-corner, and sniffed the air and barked aloud. Then there was a noise of wheels and voices at the door. Donald MacIver started up; and at the same moment the door opened and a blood-stained, mud-spattered figure staggered towards him and fell into his arms—his son.

The old man wept and prayed aloud. He had no fattened calf to kill, but he had a jar of very excellent Scotch whiskey in his cupboard, and a cold ham from a very well-fatted hog. So they ate and drank and were happy, and the good-natured driver returned the next day.

The accident made Fergus more of a lion than ever. No mention was made of his misfortune at college, and he sung in church and taught the little boys in the Sabbath-school as of yore.

He had now plenty of time to consider what should be the next object of his ambition. Farming, of course, was out of the question. Should he take up theology, law, or medicine? Each seemed to hold out great prospects for a man of his ability.

His venerable pastor tried to turn his mind in the direction of theology, and his father (though he had rather a leaning towards law) looked upon this idea with considerable favour. But during the summer a friend and distant relation of the family came to stay in the village. He had with him various books and a considerable assortment of bones, and he discoursed so elo-

quently upon the attractions of the medical profession, that he quite won for it the heart of Fergus. There could be no harm in it any way, and in spite of the infidel tendencies of modern scientific thought, it was quite capable of being combined with theology. He might even go out as a missionary like Dr. Livingstone, and turn his varied knowledge to account in many ways. So Fergus at length made up his mind to study medicine. He threw himself with eagerness into his new studies, which afforded him at least the attraction of novelty. Among his new associates, he found his simple and artless manner even more out of place than in Arts, but habit will work wonders. In a week Fergus had grown quite accustomed to the odour of oaths and tobacco smoke; he had even entered the dissecting room, with pale face and sinking stomach indeed, but he had kept up his spirits by smiling a sickly smile and whistling a lively air.

Some weeks passed by, and then came the footing dinner. Fergus paid his footing nobly, and went to the dinner. He had never seen anything like it: the long rows of chairs; the tables loaded and glittering—but why describe it; every one knows what a footing dinner is. Fergus went home with his head full of the songs and jokes which he had heard, and his mouth in that condition known as "hot coppers." The gentleman who performed the sacred duties of friendship for him was a "round, fat oily man"—not of God—who made himself agreeable by jocosely talking:

"We think it is no sin, sir,
To take the freshmen in, sir,
And ease them of their tin, sir,
To drive dull care away."

Fergus thought him a very nice fellow. Of course any one who would be guilty of taking freshmen in would not declare it so sweetly and so publicly. He thought this, and the sentiment about the best way of passing Saturday night a mere poetic fiction. His friend got him safely to bed and left him there; not long, however. He called next morning at nine o'clock and asked our guileless freshman to assist him in getting some of his friends out of a difficulty. Fergus did not feel equal to the task of assisting them personally, but he allowed his friend to ease him of certain bank notes, which he said would be absolutely necessary for the assistance meditated. The charmer then left, swearing eternal gratitude. Those notes took to themselves wings, and were never seen again. The fascinating young man was called home suddenly by "circumstances over which he had no control," and did not find it convenient to return; so Fergus and other freshmen, and seniors and citizens were left lamenting. Our hero wished to run down to Boston to interview the deceiver, but he had not enough left for passage money, and most of his friends were in the same condition, for the young man certainly showed great forgetfulness in regard to his debts. Some were even unkind enough to apply to him the coarse name of swindler and the like; but that showed great lack of feeling for the "peculiar circumstances in which he was placed."

Our thrifty Scot was of course deeply grieved at the loss of his money. To ease his mind he composed a poem of deep feeling; and also set about articulating a skeleton. He turned his thoughts back to his old tendency for theology, and became, to a great extent, a specimen of a very limited class, "the religious medical." He found when the novelty of medicine had worn off, that it was not all his fancy painted it; that it did not afford sufficient scope for his great abilities, and that he would probably be this last resort of the disappointed he would probably have tried engineering. His friend, Mr. Solely, would have been very happy to have him in the same class, but honesty forbade him to recommend it. In the future, he said, and under happier auspices, it might be advisable, but at present he really did not think he would benefit by it.

So Fergus pursued his studies and worked hard at his skeleton. He finished the upper part of it very successfully; the joints worked to a nicety, and nearly every bone was in its right place. The grim monster was kept well out of sight of the landlady and her servant, for ladies very often object to having skeletons, corpses and that sort of thing lying around their houses. So the skeleton was kept in an empty trunk, where it was perfectly harmless. But one day, as our hero was working at his treasure, the lid of the trunk fell down and was with a snap; so when the time for lecture drew near, the key of course, could not be found, and the skeleton was hurried into the closet instead, and its constructor hurried away to college.

That morning Mrs. O'Rourke thought that it would be a good thing to go and "tidy up Mr. MacIver's room." These young men often left things lying round where they would not be handy when wanted, instead of having a place for everything and every-

thing in its place—and the clothes might need mending, and buttons might be wanting, and altogether Mrs. O'Rourke thought it her duty, as a Christian woman, to go and see about it. So she went and saw that his trunks were safely locked, so that the girl might not be tempted to pry into them, and looked carefully on the floor for loose change, which would be useful for benevolent objects, and in short she "tidied up" the room pretty well, and then went to the closet. Fergus had placed the skeleton on the shelf and hastily turned the key and had gone away in a hurry without thinking any more about it. So Mrs. O'Rourke opened the closet door and commenced to feel the clothes. While thus engaged in the gloom, she unfortunately jolted the loose shelf, and the skeleton lost his balance and sense of propriety; he fell forward, rattling on to Mrs. O'Rourke, with his bony arms loosely clasping her fair neck. Mrs. O'Rourke behaved very properly in this trying state of affairs; she screamed wildly, and started back, and when she saw the skeleton, went off into a dead faint. Here the maid found her some time after. When Fergus came home at noon he missed his usual meal, and instead of it learned that the mistress was sick in bed, and the maid too busy attending on her to take care of such every-day matters as dinner.

The landlady was in bed for some days, and Fergus fearing that she might die, suffered great mental anguish. But she got up at last and began to be about again; so our hero, as the session was just ending, determined to go home. He carefully packed his trunks, putting in all his clothes, his valuable notes, books, and the cause of so much suffering, the skeleton. He paid his landlady and was about to leave, when a bailiff arrived with a legal document which caused him some trouble. It was a writ and a polite note from Messrs. Pettis & Fogger, Attorneys, &c., telling him that they, at the request of his landlady, had instituted proceedings against him for five hundred dollars damages, and that they were obliged to take security for their costs, etc. So the trunks were not allowed to leave the house.

Fergus was dumb-founded at this announcement; but he could make no impression upon the bailiff, who even threatened him with personal arrest. So he went forth to see if his friends could not help him out of his difficulty. But they all, by a strange coincidence, had so many claims upon them that they found it quite impossible to help him otherwise than by advice; so they gave him with the greatest liberality. One advised him to go to a lawyer and fight it out, others to compromise the matter with Pettis & Fogger, but none furnished him with the means of doing either. Finally, he made up his mind that he would go home and consult his father and the minister; and, as he had already bought his ticket, he lost no time in so doing. He made another unsuccessful effort to obtain his trunks, and then started for home with a heavy heart. But he never saw his trunks again, for they were appropriated by the eminent legal firm of Pettis & Fogger, as a slight recompense for the trouble and expense they had undergone; so Fergus returned in peace to the bosom of his family, and for a season was troubled no more by landlady, trunks, or law suit.

University Athletics.

Athletic sports have rapidly spread throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion during the last few years; whether for good or evil it is not within our province to discuss, only the fact would seem to carry its own justification. Our own athletic meeting in October was the opening one for McGill, and we all know how successful the attempt was. Snowshoe races are being mooted for some day late in February, and this would answer as the winter meeting of the Association; while some of the more enthusiastic have been seriously discussing the *pros* and *cons* regarding the attempt to organize a boating club to join the Rowing Association of American Colleges. Such evidences as these show that a spirit of muscular Christianity is asserting itself among our students. At the English Universities, Exeter College, Oxford, took the initiative in 1852, and these meetings have since been repeated annually; *Bell's Life* specially commenting upon "the revival of good old English sports." Within the last five years athletic meetings have become quite general; these *reunions* being certainly as successfully conducted, and as numerously attended, as any others.

These remarks have been suggested by the fact that during the past week we were shown the sketch of a literary enterprise, which is now approaching completion, in the hands of one of our students. His name we are not at liberty to mention; could we do so, we know that in McGill, at least, it would do much toward creating a feeling of interest in the scheme. We can, however, gratify public curiosity as to the aims and nature of the book.

Shortly after the athletic meeting last Fall a member of the committee conceived the idea of getting out a book on McGill institutions, the different clubs, rifle companies, Founder's festival, &c. In attempting to carry out the project it assumed much larger proportions, and we are now able to announce that early in March a book entitled, "University Athletics," will be published. It is intended to be a book of reference on matters connected with University and Public School sports, and will contain descriptions, rules, records, &c., up to date, of all those pastimes which are in vogue among the colleges and public schools of America and England. The author, or more properly perhaps, the compiler, has received promises of papers, or the papers themselves, from many sources. Among them we may mention, on Foot-ball, from the Captains of the "Twenties" at Harrow, Yale, Harvard, and Rugby, and also from the latter an account of their celebrated "Crickot Run." On Boating, from the Presidents of the clubs at Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, and Harvard; while Mr. C. W. Busk, Trin. Coll., Cambridge, Pres. C.U.C.C., furnishes an article on Canoeing, from notes of his own and personal hints from Mr. MacGregor, of "Rob Roy" celebrity. On Cricket, Mr. R. A. Fitzgerald, Secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club, a member of the Gentlemen's Eleven, and author of "Wickets in the West," and Mr. J. Luard Pattison, Private Secretary to His Excellency Lord Dufferin, send capital articles. Col. Worsley, the commander of the Canadian team at Wimbledon for two years, writes on Rifle-shooting—a subject of much interest, and one which, in the hands of such an acknowledged master, both in theory and practice, will add much to the value of the book. Mr. H. F. Wilkinson, of the London Athletic Club, author of "Modern Athletics," gives his paper on Ancient Athletics, besides many valuable hints on training and such kindred subjects. Among well-known Canadians, E. A. Meredith, LL.D., sends several pages on general athletic subjects; and the special sports of the country, snowshoeing, lacrosse, &c., are being treated by Montreal writers well qualified to handle their several subjects. It had been hoped that Col. Fletcher, Secretary to the Governor-General, the first writer on drill in English, if not in any language, would have contributed a paper on the subject, but pressure of public business prevented his compliance. We may say that the book is to be dedicated to the Right Hon. the Earl of Dufferin, Visitor to the University, and that, by letter, His Excellency has expressed his interest in it.

From the above hasty sketch it will be seen that our friend has a somewhat extensive field to go over, and we hope soon to be able to congratulate him and our College on the production of a book which, from the names of its contributors, ought to be a standard work on all matters connected with University sports; and we are sure that when it appears it will be a credit to the author, as well as to the originality which suggested so bold a scheme. The articles in no instance have ever appeared in book form before, and show in what a kindly spirit the enterprise has been received and encouraged by the eminent authorities whom we have already alluded to. In the meantime we will defer a more extended notice in regard to it, and content ourselves with announcing its inception and the progress already made, and wishing its compiler all possible success.

Since writing the above, we have been shown letters from Messrs. Thomas Hughes, M.P., Edmund Yates, John Brown, M.D., author of "Horse Subsevice," Prof. James de Mille, author of "Cord and Creese," &c., and the author of "Four Years at Yale,"—and the hope is held out that several of these "Princes of the Pen" will materially aid the work on *Ludi Academicenses* by sending articles in addition to their expressions of "best wishes for your success," &c.

The Earl of Shaftesbury in addressing the students of the Royal Polytechnic College of London on the distribution of prizes, made the following observation, which admits of very wide application: "It was a common mistake among men at college, but one much to be regretted, that they would rest content with honours when they had obtained them. Honours to such men would be as the Pillars of Hercules to the mariners of old; when they had attained to them, they had navigated the globe, and there was nothing left for them to do. But this is altogether wrong. Prizes should be considered, not as the conclusion to work already done, but rather as fresh starting points for work still to do. The one great element for success, in which men most failed, was perseverance—a dogged and determined perseverance, which, it appeared to him, was one of the greatest qualities of the human mind."

The Birds of Montreal and Vicinity.

PAPER III.

"The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds, and naked woods, and meadows brown and sere;
Heaped in the hollows of the groves, the wither'd leaves lie dead—
They rustle to the eddying gull, and to the rabbit's tread—
The robin and the wren are flown, and from the shrubs the jay,
And from the wood-top, calls the crow, through all the gloomy day."

Family: STRIGIDAE—The Owls.

"Form usually short and heavy, with the head disproportionately large, and frequently furnished with erectile tufts of feathers resembling the ears of quadrupeds. General organization adapted to vigorous and noiseless, but not rapid flight, and to the capture of animals in the morning and evening twilight. Eyes usually very large, directed forwards, and in the greater number of species formed for seeing by twilight, or in the night. Bill rather strong, curved, nearly concealed by projecting bristle-like feathers; wings generally long; outer edges of primary quills fringed; legs generally rather short, and in all species, except in one Asiatic genus (*Ketupa*), more or less feathered, generally densely. Cavity of the ear very large. Face encircled by a more or less perfect disc of short rigid feathers, which, with the large eyes, gives to these birds an entirely peculiar and frequently cat-like expression. Female larger than the male.

There are about one hundred and fifty species of owls, which are found in all parts of the world, of which about forty are inhabitants of the continent of America and its islands. The larger species subsist on small quadrupeds and birds, but by far the majority almost exclusively prey on insects. Though the larger number are nocturnal, a few species are strictly diurnal, and in their habits seem to approach the birds of the preceding family.

Sub-Family: BUBONINAE.—The Horned Owls.

Head large, with erectile and prominent ear-tufts. Eyes large; facial disc not complete above the eyes and bill; legs, feet and claws usually very strong.

This division contains numerous species, some of which are very large, but the greater number are medium sized or small. They inhabit all parts of the world except "Australia."

Genus: BUBO.—Cuvier.

This genus includes the large horned owls, or cat owls, as they are sometimes called. These birds are most numerous in Asia and Africa, and there are in all countries about fifteen species.

GREAT HORNED OWL. (*Bubo Virginianus*, Gmelin.) This is a very large and powerful bird; female measures in length, 21 to 25 inches; male, 18 to 21 inches. Colour on the back of head, body and tail, dark brown, with bands of yellowish brown intermixed. Facial discs and under portion of body and tail of a yellowish brown colour with darker horizontal bands. Breast with a large white patch extending like a collar nearly round the neck. The ear-tufts, or horns as they are sometimes called, are formed of large feathers, and project upwards from the sides of the head, above the ears; they are of a dark, and in some cases blackish-brown colour.

The colour is said to vary somewhat, the white on the breast and neck being one of the most distinguishing, or constant, characters.

"This beautiful and majestic bird was called by Buffon, *Duc de Virginie*; by the Cree Indians, a tribe in the North-West, *Niewok*—*Omeesaw*, and according to Sir John Richardson, by the Indians of the plains of the Saskatchewan, *Otowack Ohio*. The savages, it is said, hold it in great respect, as a bird of evil omen, and carry this superstition so far as to be displeased with anyone who imitates the unearthly hootings of this midnight marauder.

In the "American Ornithology" Wilson writes as follows concerning this species:—"His favorite residence is in the dark solitudes of deep swamps, covered with a growth of gigantic timber; and here, as soon as evening draws on, and mankind retire to rest, he sends forth such sounds as

seem scarcely to belong to this world, starting the solitary pilgrim as he slumbers by his forest fire,

'Making night hideous.'

"Along the mountainous shores of the Ohio, and amidst the deep forests of Indiana, alone, and reposing in the woods, this ghostly watchman has frequently warned me of the approach of morning, and amused me with his singular exclamations, sometimes sweeping down an "around my fire, uttering a loud and sudden *Waugh O! Waugh O!* sufficient to have alarmed a whole garrison. He has other nocturnal solos, no less melodious; one of which very strikingly resembles the half-suppressed screams of a person suffocating, or throttled, and cannot fail of being exceedingly entertaining to a lonely benighted traveller in the midst of an Indian wilderness.

"There is something in the character of the owl so reclusive, solitary and mysterious, something so discordant in the tones of its voice, heard only amid the silence and gloom of night, and in the most lonely and sequestered situations, as to have strongly impressed the minds of mankind in general with sensations of awe and abhorrence of the whole tribe. The poets have indulged freely in this general prejudice; and in their descriptions and delineations of midnight storms and gloomy scenes of nature, the owl is generally introduced to heighten the horror of the picture. Ignorance and superstition, in all ages, and in all countries, listen to the voice of the owl, and even contemplate its physiognomy, with feelings of disgust and a kind of fearful awe. The priests, or conjurers among some of our Indian nations have taken advantage of the reverential horror for this bird, and have adopted the Great Horned Owl, the subject of the present account, as the symbol or emblem of their office. 'Among the Creeks,' says Mr. Bartram, in his *Travels*, p. 504, 'the junior priests, or students, constantly wear a white mantle, and ingeniously, so well executed as almost to appear like the living bird, having large sparkling glass beads or buttons fixed in the head for eyes. These insignia of wisdom and divination they wear sometimes as a simple bird on the top of the head, at other times the image sits on the arm, or is borne on the hand. These bachelors are also distinguished from the other people by their taciturnity, grave and solemn countenance, dignified step, and singing to themselves songs or hymns in a low sweet voice, as they stroll about the town.'

"Nothing is a more effectual cure for superstition than a knowledge of the general laws and productions of nature, nor more forcibly leads our reflections to the first great self-existent Cause of all, to whom our reverential awe is then humbly devoted, and not to any of His dependent creatures. With all the gloomy habits and ungracious tones of the owl, there is nothing in this bird supernatural or mysterious, or more than that of a simple bird of prey, formed for feeding by night—like many other animals—and of reposing by day. The harshness of its voice, occasioned by the width and capacity of its throat, may be intended by Heaven as an alarm and warning to the birds and animals on which it preys, to secure themselves from danger. The voices of all carnivorous birds and animals are also observed to be harsh and hideous, probably for this very purpose."

"The Great Horned Owl is said to feed on poultry, hares, squirrels, mice, partridges, small birds of all kinds, and a dead fish thrown up on the shore is regarded as quite an addition to the 'bill of fare,' and, "as he hunts while others sleep, no doubt his larder is generally well supplied." The present species is said to pair early in spring, and usually selects a large branch, not far from the trunk of a tree, upon which to construct its nest. The latter is composed, externally, of crooked sticks, which are piled up to a considerable height. The inside of the nest is lined with dried leaves and a few feathers. The external diameter of the structure measures about three feet. The eggs, from three to six in number, are almost globular in form, about the size of a hen's egg, and of a dull white colour. "The young birds remain in the nest until fully fledged, and afterwards follow their parents for a considerable time, uttering a mournful sound to induce them to supply them with food. They acquire the full plumage of the old birds in the first spring, and until then are considerably lighter, with more dull

buff in their tints. The nest is sometimes made in the hollows of large, partially decayed trees, and occasionally in the fissures of rocks. In these cases very little preparation is made previously to the laying of the eggs."

Adubson states that the "flight of the Great Horned Owl is elevated, rapid and graceful. It sails with apparent ease, and in large circles, in the manner of an eagle—rises and descends without the least difficulty, by merely inclining its wings or its tail as it passes through the air. Now and then it glides silently close over the earth with incomparable velocity, and drops, as if shot dead, on the prey beneath."

Concerning the notes uttered by this bird, the above writer says that occasionally, "when not more than fifty yards distant, it utters its more usual *hoo, hoo, hoo-e* in so peculiar an undertone that a person unacquainted with the notes of this species might easily conceive them to be produced by an owl more than a mile distant. During the utterance of all these unmusical cries it moves its body, more particularly its head, in various ways, putting them into positions, all of which appear to please it much, however grotesque they may seem to the eye of man. In the interval following each cry it snaps its bill, as if by way of amusement, or, like the wild boar sharpening the edges of his tusks, it perhaps expects that the action will whet its mandibles."

It may not be out of place to state that I have frequently noticed the same habit in a canary bird, now in my possession. This snapping of the mandibles of a bird, appears to bear a very close resemblance to the vulgar habit of some wingless bipeds, namely, the smacking of the lips, especially after a somewhat full and satisfactory meal. The connection between the two cases is moreover clearly shown by the fact, that the smacking motion of the "later development" is usually accompanied by a liberal use of a quill. The above point ought certainly to be regarded with favour by the supporters of the Darwinian hypothesis.

The Great Horned Owl is not a rare bird in this neighbourhood—specimens being obtained almost every year. Two fine examples were shot last fall, near the Lower Lachine Road. They occur also about barns lying around the Mountain.

Genus: *Scops*.—Savigny.

"General form short and compact. This genus contains twenty-five to thirty species of small owls, inhabiting all parts of the world except Australia."

SCREECH OWL (*Scops asio*, Linnæus.) Mottled Horned Owl, Mottled Owl, Red Owl. This is a rather small species. Length and girth about 10 inches. Colour on the head and back, light reddish-brown. Some of the feathers on the head and neck have the shaft, or central portion, blackened, causing the general colour, on the parts mentioned, to have a streaked appearance. The front edges of the feathers of the wing coverts are white. The ends of the primaries are also edged with white, and barred with dark brown.

Above each eye, there is a tuft of reddish-brown and white feathers, with shafts blackened. Disc around each eye, light red. Breast feathers white, mottled with brown and black. Abdomen a mixture of white and reddish brown feathers, the latter with blackened shafts.

Under tail coverts white. Underside of tail lighter shade than above. Feathers on the legs and toes, a mixture of white and light brown. Nuns' Island, &c.

Genus: *Otus*.—Cuvier.

"General form longer and more slender than in the preceding genera. Head moderate; ear tufts long, erectile; bill rather short, curved from the base; facial disc more perfect than in the preceding. Wings long; tail moderate; tarsi and toes covered with short feathers; claws long, curved. Eyes rather small, and surrounded by radiating feathers.

This genus contains ten or twelve species of various countries, all of which are more handsome birds than are usually met with in this family.

LONG-EARED { *Otus Wilsonianus*, Lesson, C } Wilson's
OWL. { "*vulgaris*, var, *Wilsonianus*, } Owl.

The length is about 14 inches; girth about 12 inches. One of the distinguishing characteristics is the long tuft on each side of the top of the head. Each tuft consists of two or three brown and yellow feathers. From the base of these tufts, a narrow dark brown coloured collar extends downwards around the neck. Head and neck brown, intermixed with dark yellow. Back and upper part of wings, and sides of the body, an alternation of chocolate brown and white bars, presenting a very curious appearance. Upper part of tail feathers and primaries brown, barred with yellowish-brown. Under part of body light greyish-yellow, marked with chocolate-coloured veins. The latter appearance is owing to the way in which the colours on the feathers are disposed. The prevailing, or ground colour, is white—the shaft of the feather is chocolate brown. From this central shaft, cross bars of a similar colour extend at somewhat regular intervals, to the edge of the feather, and as these feathers are not disposed parallel to each other, the appearance presented is as stated above.

In the *Canadian Naturalist* for June, 1870, Mr. Whiteaves records that "Mr. Craig has been so fortunate as to find a nest of this species also this summer, at Hochelaga (at the east end of this city), containing four eggs. He informs me that it was built on the branch of a spruce tree some 25 feet high, about 18 or 20 feet from the ground. The nest was like that of a crow, but larger, and made roughly of twigs and moss. Two of these eggs have been secured for the collection of the Society."

I have examined these eggs. They are in shape a round oval; length, 1.6 inch; width, 1.3 inch. The colour dull white.

Genus: *Brachyotus*.—Gould.

"Ear tufts very short and inconspicuous. General form rather strong; wings long; tail moderate; legs rather long, which, with the toes, are fully covered with short feathers; claws long, very sharp, and rather slender. Head moderate; eyes rather small, surrounded by radiating feathers; facial disc imperfect on the forehead and above the eyes; tail moderate."

This genus contains four or five species only, the two best known of which are the European *Brachyotus palustris* and the American *Brachyotus cassini*."

SHORT-EARED OWL. { *Brachyotus Cassini*, Brewer.
" *palustris*, C.

This species appears to be closely allied, if not identical, with the European Short-eared Owl (*Brachyotus palustris*) and is so considered by Coates, who states that there is no appreciable difference between them. The European bird is graced with the names,—Woodcock Owl, Short-horned Howlet, Mousehawk, &c.

The present species is a moderate sized owl, measuring about 15 inches in length, with a girth of about 14 inches, General colour brown. Head, back, and breast brown with brownish-yellow streaks; wings brown, with bars of yellowish-brown; under part of body yellow, streaked with brown; legs yellow; bill and claws blackish. Tufts over the eyes scarcely noticeable.

Sub-Family: SYRNINÆ.—The Grey Owl.

"Head large, with very small and concealed ear tufts or entirely without. Facial disc nearly perfect; eyes small for the family of owls; wings rather short, or not so long as in the preceding; tarsi and toes generally fully feathered. This group contains some of the largest of owls; generally, however, the size is medium, and frequently small."

Genus: *Syrnium*.—Savigny.

"Size usually large; head large, without ear tufts; eyes rather small; facial disc somewhat imperfect in front. Bill strong, curved from its base; wings moderate, somewhat rounded; fourth and fifth quills longest; tail rather long, wide, and usually rounded at the end; legs moderate, or rather long, and, with the toes, are densely covered with short feathers; claws long, strong, and very sharp.

Species of this genus inhabit principally the northern parts of the world, and are generally characterized by the prevalence of grey or cinereous of various shades in their plumage."

GREAT } *Syrnium cinereum*, Gmelin. } Cinereus
GREY OWL. } " *Lapponicum*, var. *cinereum*, C. } Owl.

This is considered the largest of the North American Owls. Length from 2 to 2½ feet; girth about 22 inches. Prevailing colour on upper parts dark chocolate-brown, mottled with greyish-white. Primaries also chocolate-brown, with mottled greyish-white bars on the middle and upper portion of the same. Tail similarly marked. Facial disc with alternate gray and dark brown circular bands. Breast and abdomen streaked and barred with greyish-white and dark brown, with more white on the breast. There is also a dark brown band extending from the breast almost round the neck. Legs and feet large and covered with smaller gray and brown banded feathers. Bill yellow; claws black.

Nuns' Island, &c.

BARRED OWL (*Syrnium nebulosum*, Forster), *Hibou barré*.

This is one of our largest birds, being but very little smaller than the previous species. Length and girth about 20 inches. General colour on upper parts, brownish, barred with grayish-white; tail darker shades. Breast light gray, barred with brown. Abdomen light gray, with longitudinal streaks of brown. Under tail feathers whitish with broad cross bars of gray. Facial disc gray with dark rings or bars round the eyes. Legs yellowish-white; claws blackish; bill light yellow. The light coloured feathers both on the upper and under portion of the body are also slightly tinged with yellow.

Nuns' Island, &c.

Genus; NYCTALE. Brehm.

"Size small. Head with very small ear tufts, only observable when erected; eyes small; bill moderate or not very strong; facial disc nearly perfect. Wings rather long; tail short; legs and toes densely feathered. Contains five species of small and quite peculiar owls, four of which are American and one European."

RICHARD- } *Nyctale Richardsonii*, Bonaparte. } Teng-
SON'S OWL. } " *Tennensis*, var. *Richardsonii*, C. } malm's
Owl.

This is one of our smallest species. The following is a description of one which, last fall, flew into a barn near the Mountain.

Length and girth about 8½ inches. Upper parts chocolate brown, with small white spots on the head, and more or less mottled with white on the back and wings. Tail also brown, but with four narrow white bands. Facial disc whitish. Above and below the bill, and running down towards the breast, brown. There is a dark brown band on the breast extending backwards. Under portion of body marked with broad white and brown streaks. Feathers covering the legs and toes, loosely arranged and of a brownish-white color, slightly barred with brown. Legs and feet rather large. Bill yellow towards the apex, and black at the base; claws black.

Mr. Passmore found the remains of two mice in the stomach of the above specimen.

Other specimens have been found at Lachine, Côte des Neiges, &c.

KIRTLAND'S } (*Nyctale Albifrons*, Shaw) *Nyctale à front blanc*.
OWL.

This is only about two-thirds of the size of the preceding species. Specimen in the N. H. S. Museum measures about 7½ inches in length, with a girth of about 9 inches. The tail has four bands of white, and is tipped with the same colour. The following is a description of a male bird of this species, which flew last fall into Mr. Joyce's pigeon-cot nearly opposite the Museum.

Prevailing colour on upper parts brown, slightly mottled with white on the wings. Tail with two narrow white bands, and tipped with white. Facial disc brown with a white patch rising at the base of the upper mandible, and extending for a short distance above each eye. It is

on account of the possession of this distinct white patch on the forehead, so to speak, of the bird, that it has received the specific name, *albifrons*. Abdomen light yellowish-brown. Legs and feet covered with small closely fitting feathers of a light yellowish-white, giving a great appearance to both legs and toes. Bill and claws blackish.

Length and girth about 7 inches.

Other localities, near Victoria Bridge.

SAW-WHET OWL (*Nyctale Acadica*, Gmelin.) Little, or Least Owl, Acadian Owl, Little Night Owl, Sparrow Owl. This is usually regarded as the smallest of our owls, though there is but little apparent difference between this and the preceding species, which it very closely resembles.

The length of the present species is about seven inches, with a girth of about nine inches. Prevailing colour above brown, streaked with white on the head—streaked appearance due to the whitened shafts of the feathers—and mottled with white on the front edges of the primaries, and on wing coverts. Tail also brown, with two narrow white bars, and tipped with white. Facial discs light greyish-brown. Breast and abdomen white, mottled with brown. Around the front portion of the throat and breast there is a sort of brown coloured band or collar. Under tail coverts greyish-white. Feathers on the legs and toes of a yellowish-white color, and rather closely arranged, giving these parts a long and slender appearance. Bill blackish; claws yellow.

This species is considered by Coues to be the adult, and by others only a variety of the preceding, or Kirtland's Owl. The chief difference between these species being the white patch on the forehead of Kirtland's Owl.

This species appears to be rather common, specimens having been obtained at Nuns' Island, Point aux Trembles, Back River, &c.

Sub-Family: NYCTRINAE.—The Day Owls.

"General form compact and robust. Head moderate, without ear-tufts; wings and tail rather long; tarsi strong, which, with the toes, are more densely covered than in any other division of this family.

This division embraces two species only, which inhabit the arctic regions of both continents, migrating southward in the winter."

Genus: NYCTEA. Stephens.

"Size, large; head, rather large; no facial disc; leg rather short, and with the toes densely covered with long hair-like feathers, nearly concealing the claws; bill short, nearly concealed by projecting feathers, very strong; claws strong, fully curved."

This genus contains one species only,

SNOWY OWL (*Nyctea nivea*, Daudin), White Owl; *Hibou blanc*. Length about two feet; girth about twenty-six inches; head, back, wings and tail white, mottled or spotted with chocolate brown; facial discs and breasts pure white—the white on the breast extending, like a collar, round the throat. More particularly is this collar complete in old birds than in young ones, in which the mottled brown and white feathers of the head extend down the back. Breast and abdomen with alternate broad dark-brown and white spots or bars; legs and feet densely covered with long, white, hair-like feathers; bill and claws blackish—in old, especially male birds, white predominates. In some cases the entire plumage is pure white. This species is frequently observed in the woods about the city, and more particularly on Nuns' Island.

Genus: SURNIA. Dumeril.

General form rather long, but robust; size medium. Contains one species only, which inhabits the northern regions of both continents.

HAWK OWL. } *Surnia ulula*, Linnæus. }
" } var. *Hudsonius*, C. } DAY OWL.

The Canada Owl. This bird bears a very close resemblance to the hawk, and as it appears to fly about and pursue its prey during the day, rather than at night, it is frequently

mistaken for a hawk. Length about 14 inches, and girth about 12 inches. Colour of the head and upper portion of the body and tail, dark-brown mottled with greyish-white. Under portion of body and tail of a lighter colour and presenting a more regular appearance, consisting of alternate brown and greyish-white bars or markings. Bill yellow; feet thickly covered with feathers; claws black. There is a ring of black feathers round the face. Found on Nuns' Island, &c.

The present and previous papers, contains notices of all the members of the Order-Raptors, which I have been able to ascertain as *bona fide* visitors in this neighbourhood. It will be seen from the list, that we have 15 representatives of the strictly diurnal birds of prey—including the falcons or hawks, and the eagles. We have also 11 members of the strigidae or owl family, usually called nocturnal birds of prey.

In concluding my remarks on the birds which have been under consideration, I have little to add to the characters already given. The genus *Falco* is easily distinguished, from all other birds of this group by the prominent tooth on each side of the upper mandible, with a corresponding depression on each side of the lower mandible, into which the tooth fits when the mandibles are closed. The position of the tooth varies; in some species it is near the apex, in others it is central, while in others, it is quite close to the base. The depressions in the lower mandible give the latter a blunted, truncated, or step-like appearance.

The feathers of the hawks and eagles are generally compact and fitting close to the body, and of a yellow or brownish shade. Wings in most are pointed and well fitted either for transporting the bird to some other locality, or for the securing of its prey, the method of procuring which has been well expressed by Cowper in the following lines:—

"Down, down the white she swims, and sails away,
Now stoops upon it, and now grasps the prey."

The marsh harrier and the hawk owl seem to be the connecting links between their respective families. The sternum or breast bone of the hawk is well worth a moment's study. It is rather long, well rounded, and with a deep keel or ridge beneath. The bones forming the "merrythought" are broad, flat and united together as in an ordinary fowl. These points of structure are entirely different from those found in the members of the Owl family, in which the breast bone is short, flat, deeply indented in the posterior part, and with little or no keel. The clavicles for bones, which in most birds form the "merrythought," in the owls are not united, and are represented by round, slender, pointed bones. These differences in structure will in some measure account for the rather slow flight of the owl, when compared with that of the hawks and eagles. The owls may be easily distinguished by the presence of the facial disc or radical feathers round each eye. The feathers are soft, and rather loosely arranged. The legs and toes are also generally well covered with hair-like feathers. The eyes of the owls are usually large, directed forwards, and with a peculiar absorbing expression, quite in contrast to the piercing expression of the hawk-eye. The front edges, also, of the first three or four long feathers of the wing, have a saw-edged appearance, due to the end of the fibrils of these feathers being bent up. There are also a series of bony plates attached to the posterior basal edge of the skull. These bones, I believe, are not found in the hawks, &c.

The sound or cry of the hawks and eagles may be characterized as a hoarse shriek, while that of the owls is a 'ot, slightly varied according to the species. The owls are most abundant during the cold and wintry months. The time of their occurrence, and the cry which they emit, have been noticed by Shakespeare in his Comedy entitled "Love's Labour's Lost" in the following lines:—

"When icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk come frozen home in pail,
When blood is nipp'd and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-who;
Tu-whit, tu-who, a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot."

The Woodpeckers, &c., will be noticed in the next paper.

Geo. T. KENNEDY.

January, 1874.

Personals.

E. A. MEREDITH, LL. D., Principal of McGill University during the years 1846-47, is now Under Secretary of State for the Dominion. Amid the duties of his profession, he finds time for considerable literary work.

J. S. BRIGHAM, M.D., '48, represents the County of Missisquoi in the Local Legislature, Province of Quebec.

HON. ALEX. MORRIS, B.A., '49; B.C.L. '50, and one of the Governors, is Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Manitoba.

BROWN CHAMBERLIN, B.C.L., '50, is Queen's Printer for the Dominion.

Geo. H. BOULTER, M.D., '52, represents North Hastings in the Legislature of Ontario.

EDOUARD LABERGE, M.D., '56, is representative for Chateauguay in the Local Legislature, Province of Quebec.

HON. R. W. CARROL, M.D., '59, is a member of the Senate from British Columbia.

J. PONSOMBY SEXTON, Q.C., B.C.L., '60, is the Recorder for the City of Montreal.

WILFRED LAURIER, B.C.L., '64, is a member of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Quebec, for Drummond and Arthabaska.

CHAS. H. COOKE, M.D., '66, is engaged in the practice of Medicine in the town of Brantford, Ont.

ASA GORDON, B.C.L., and Elizabeth Torrance medallist, '67, is engaged in the practice of Law at Aylmer, Quebec.

JOSEPH DUBEC, B.C.L., '69, is a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

JOHN T. FINNIE, M.D., '69, at the last annual meeting of the Caledonian Society, was unanimously elected its President.

R. W. WALLACE, B.A., '72, has charge of the Congregational Church in London, Ont.

DENIS BARRY, B.C.L., '72, was admitted to the practice of Law at a late meeting of the Montreal Bar.

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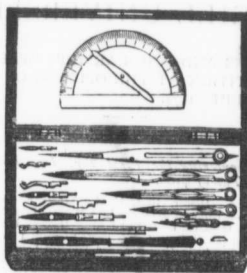
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