VOL. II.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 1, 1875.

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THE GARETTE 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 scaled envelope, which will be opened if the contribution is inserted, but will be destroyed if rejected. This rule will be strictly adhered to. H. H. WOOD, Secretary.

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Vol. II., New Series.

McGill College, December 1st, 1875.

LITERARY.

DETERIORATION OF AN OLD STANDARD.

" Love's Labour Lost" will probably be the epitaph inscribed over that great body of arguments which have from time to time been urged in defence of Classical Education, and which, as far as present indications show, seem destined in the close future to find an untimely grave. When these are consigned to their last resting place, with willing fingers will their opponents chisel out the symbols R. I. P., a prayer which at that day may be charitable enough, but is now devoutly uttered with feelings far other those of good will. Such seems to be the purport of a late article in the London Spectator, which censured Members for delivering out of Parliament, speeches on the subject of Education not only Classical but general, on the ground that it would be just as ridiculous to be for ever haranguing about eating and drinking, because the school room forms as much a necessary part of our existence as the dining room. Admitting for a moment the soundness of this proposition, which, by the way, looks very much like a reductio ad absurdum, it may be said that such is not the idea of Young Canada, especially with regard to the study of the dead languages. For the young aspirant to the counting house sits down to these with far less relish than he does to a good dinner, the while that his father pronounces over the literary meal the invariable grace "Cui bono ?"

After all the solutions to this conundrum which have apparently failed to satisfy the propounders of the question, it is truly disheartening to resort to the only answer that is left leading to the climax of "mental culture." "No that won't do," exclaims the practical Plutocrat, "try something else." That process won't bring the silver to my coffers," says the 'hardy son of toil ' whose walks over broad

acres are more extended than his excursion into the domains of intelligence. " Don't talk to me about Hesiod's Precepts or Virgil's doctrines, I never needed either one or the other to direct my operations and I have managed to make a very comfortable living without even knowing who they were. Now, build scientific schools and assemble classes in Agriculture and I will do my best to support Yes of course every one will support them." these because the knowledge gained therein can readily be converted into money. It would augur well for the prosperity of Canada if such Schools and Colleges were scattered far and wide throughout the country and no alarm need be experienced about their establishment. But at this moment when the foundation of the College proper seems to be crumbling, when the base, whereon the education of centuries has been reared gives signs of decay, there is cause for fear that the whole edifice will go to ruin if some measures are not taken to strengthen the tottering pile

Truly the worst may be apprehended when a statesman like Mr. Lowe, (who perhaps regretted that he had not devoted more time to Mathematics because of their great service to a Chancellor of the Exchequer) turns his back upon the languages that have from time immemorial been the dearest study of prospective Ministers of (English) State.' Tis enough to elicit a denunciation against him from every stone in the walls of St. Stephens which have for ages resounded with the immortal music of classic diction.

But, on the other hand it is encouraging to see the English Members, while waxing warm in the philanthropy and advocacy of middle class education, still encouraging and forwarding these studies which are now considered obsolete and unsuited to the times. Unsuited in sooth 1 In what respect? If this means that no one now-a-days wants showy erudition, but

rather that "Crassa Minerva" and keen sharpness necessary for the last decades of the nineteenth century, then the objection may be admitted. But will any one attempt to prove that because Lord Derby made a grand translation of Homer's Iliad, he was unfitted for his position and should have lived two generations earlier, or breathes there one insane enough to say that the profound learning which has given to the world such works as " Inventus Mundi," has had nothing to do with the success of Gladstone ! " Oh yes" its whispered perhaps if he had not dipped into such irrelevant matter as the myths of the ancient Heroes, he might still be Premier, and if he came to Canada, without 'his blushing honours thick upon' him he would not find a constituency. And if the old fashioned system of education is not adapted to the present day, is it to be presumed that a proper training can be derived from the diversity of pursuits which boys are now compelled to take up?

O shades of our grandfathers, revisit this earth and take a peep into the modern schoolroom ! Look at our studies and convince vourselves of the shameful ignorance in which you gloried, Latin and Greek, as much reduced to shades as yourselves. Greek supplanted by Book-keeping. Oh ! Manes ! your flesh would creep if you had any. Dead languages and live languages. Just to think of German in your day. And mathematics; what know you of these, a little arithmetic, and perhaps Euclid, that is if you got to the top of the tree. But here what do you see? The youngest boys giving to a the numerical value of I and trying desperately to commit the structure of the Pons Asinorum to memory. Ask that infant to translate the expression, and his knowledge of English Literature preponderates so greatly over his acquaintance with the Latin Grammar that he renders it quite readily. "The Bridge of Sighs." Chemistry too. Why you thought that it consisted in a knowledge of the four elements. And did you strive "rerum cognoscere causas ?" No, and if you did you could not have satisfied your curiosity, for they did not undertake to teach Natural Philosophy

in the Schools. And Botany, Zoology, Conchology, theories of music and drawing, with numerous other "ologies and "osophies," whose enumeration would demand more tongues than did Homer's catalogue of "the leaders and rulers of the Greeks."

Having listened to this list have you any thing to urge why judgment should not be pronounced upon you, why you should not be condemned to perfect oblivion and never more be quoted as authorities on Education? Yes, they put in a plea, the ghosts of our ancestors reply by a counter question. Is there any practical benefit to be derived from this variety of pursuits? Did we not gain more real good from the study of two ancient languages than you, our descendants, do from half-a-dozen literatures, and as many sciences? Professor Fawcett, is seated on the bench and acquits them honourably with the sentence. "Excellence in a few subjects might be regarded as a much greater distinction, and is certain to prove of more permanent benefit than mediocrity or showy superficialism in various subjects."

But while such was the case in the days of our forefathers, not even the most ardent lover of the classics would now wish to see the school term so inordinately devoted to the study of Latin and Greek, as was the practice at a time when in addition to the dead languages little more was learnt than History and the most Elementary Mathematics. For instance, there is no necessity for forcing the youth to study the Latin and Greek Grammar in these respective tongues, nor to make such poets of boys as that they may be able to apostrophize Venus in Latin Lyrics, or put Greek Iambics in the mouths of Romeo and Juliet, but is it not rather shameful that men should come up to College for a Matriculation Examination, having a fair knowledge of three books of Euclid, able to solve any problem in Quadratic Equations, crammed with Chemistry, and one or two philosophies, and yet not competent to construe two lines of Xenophon's Anabasis, or to re-translate Horace's patriotic line into anything more beautiful than,

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Dulcis est et decora patriæ perere.

This is the kind of neglect of the Classics which surely ought to be deprecated and amended, not only because it shows that these studies are losing too much ground in the schools, but also because it tends to lower their standard in the Colleges. And it is this ignorance which must be guarded against, inasmuch as it is displayed in pursuits to which the greatest encouragement was given in the earliest Institutions of learning, and to which no second place has ever been accorded. In England they will retain their place for a long time to come, but it is in Canada that measures must be provided to resist any attempt to thrust them into the back ground.

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

Monday, December 1st, 1875.

EDITORS:

RESURRECTIONING.

As our readers are probably all aware a medical student of Victoria College, was recently arrested on suspicion of being engaged in body-snatching. At his trial the students of the various Medical Colleges in the city (McGill among the number) were present in large numbers. The fine imposed upon the gentleman arrested was paid by a subscription raised among his fellow students then present. After the trial, the Students acting probably under the influence of the excitement consequent on such proceedings but certainly prompted in a great measure by that ésprit de corps which is the peculiar characteristic of medical students, formed a procession, and headed by the hero of the day paraded the streets.

Whereupon, a city contemporary in doleful tones moralizes upon these acts, calls medical students in general and Montreal medical students in particular, a "hard lot" and institutes a comparison between these latter and those inimitable but somewhat exaggerated creations of Dickens, Mr. Bob Sawyer and Mr. Ben Allen. The article referred to is generally devoid of pointedness. But we feel ourselves called upon as a College organ to resent that part of the article which reflects in such ungenerous terms upon students of medicine in McGill University. We utterly fail to see when and where our students have acted in such a manner as to deserve the name given them, and we defy any one to adduce proofs to show that such acts have been committed.

The object of the mention, in the article referred to, of the oft repeated tale of Burke and Hare, we confess we fail to understand. It is a matter of doubt with us, whether our contemporary wishes by recalling this tale, to prevent children and others remaining out too late at night, or whether it desires to hint that similar practices are encouraged by medical men here. If the former was its intention, though praiseworthy it is hardly connected with the title of the article, but if the latter is its desire. all we have to say is, that a more disgraceful slander or a more pointed libel we never saw in public print. Possibly, however, a sincere desire to afford amusement to lovers of antiquarian lore, prompted the writer in question. But two and only two inferences can be drawn from this part of the article : either the writer has intended a slander, or he has in a most pitiable and silly manner wandered from the course which in the beginning of his effusion he laid down for himself.

The question of the propriety of bodysnatching is an entirely different matter. But we object decidedly to a slander on medical students being made a hook upon which 'to hang opinions on this subject. Though we by no means countenance such practices, there is this to be said in palliation of bodysnatching. If the Government or city officials provided sufficient matter for dissecting purposes—and surely they are able to do so, resurrectioning would *ipsa facto* be stopped. But we must have medical men, for the proper education of these "subjects" are needed, are in fact, indispensable, the Government does not supply these, therefore the practice of body-snatching is as an extreme measure taken to by those, to whom, as we said before bodies are absolutely necessary. The blame in the present instance lies clearly with the authorities and not with those who are so to speak *driven* to such extremes as "resurrectioning":

We hope to see in future the blame imputed where it is due, and not upon the medical students who, though they are not "proverbially a hard lot," are very often made the objects of such articles as the one to which we have referred.

MUSINGS OVER A PIPE.

In a very clever article upon "an umbrella" written several years ago, the writer endeavoured to prove that, that useful shelter of mankind was possessed of a distinct individuality, that it was responsible for its actions, and that its vagaries were the result of its own sweet will. In the same way the genuine smoker cannot help attributing a personality to his pipe, though the moral character of the pipe, if I may use the expression, offers a pleasing contrast to that of the umbrella The umbrella is fickleness personified, it is unworthy of trust, you place your whole confidence in it, and presto! it "goes back" upon you by turning inside out, or, if left to itself for a moment, it deserts you without the slightest remorse, and enters into the possession of a stranger. But the pipe does none of these things, it is steady, reliable, the friend, more than the servant, of its master, it becomes a necessary part of his being, animæ dimidium sibi, the very half of his soul. One is often tempted to wonder, considering the really vast influence of the pipe upon modern life and literature, how the ancients ever contrived to exist without its use, and the charms of its society. How much happier would the Shepperd have been, if, when reclining under the shade of a birch tree with

Nor gaud, nor toy

save one short pipe, that pipe had been of the root of the briar, instead of being simply a

reedy whistle ! and it is interesting to speculate upon the manner in which the great men of antiquity would have worshipped the goddess Nicotina. Horace, indeed, would have probably been too fine a gentleman for anything but a cigarette, puffed over his nine-year-old Falernian, rolled by the deft fingers of Phyllis, and lighted by a taper in the shapely hand of Lesbia. But Virgil would have beheld the wanderings of Æneas through a cloud of Tatakia, and Juvenal would have moralized savagely upon the evils of his time over a short black clay. How much greater than the influence of Persian manners might have been that of the Persian weed upon the state of Rome ! But if the ancients excelled us in some things, we at least, have been more fortunate in this.

There is as much difference in pipes as in men, there are all classes and all kinds of both. To my mind the briar, if not the king of pipes, is at least the representative of the gentleman among them. It is not pretentious, but its nature is better than its appearance, but its nature is better than its appearance, which is one great boon, when the contrary is so often the case both among pipes and among mankind. It is not fragile, and can stand rough usage, or even a fall, without breaking, and however hard may be its existence, it does not become soiled and dirty, as does the inferior clay. It can take things as it finds them, but it is not injured by contact with every day life.

One of the greatest charms of a pipe is the number of associations with which it is connected. It is a Magician's wand, and can conjure up old memories and old faces from the almost forgotten depths of the past. You sit at a table, or pour out a bumper of wine, and you recall the old friends who once sat around the board, and in whose company you erstwhile lifted the glass to your lips. But your mind is enabled to bring back but the memories connected with the table or the glass. The pipe does more than this, it gives you more varied recollections, its vapour takes many a different form, it recalls many a different scene. You think, for instance, of the nights when you sought its solace after a hard day's work in camp, and, as the smoke-clouds

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roll away, you behold again the once familiar spot. The tent stands under the pines, relieving with its white canvas the monotony of the sombre shade. The camp fire blazes and sparkles fitfully, seeming to burnish the polished kettle which hangs on the forks beside it, until it shines like silver. The lap of the tiny waves on the rocks beneath sounds again in your ears, and you see once more the homeward bound canoe, a dusky spot far out on the broad lake. And the round full moon, rising beyond the farther shore, shines brightly on the rippling waters, and casts across them a bridge of gold. Or the scene changes, and you are in a warm and lighted room, with the chilly wind striving vainly to penetrate your fortress, and howling as it retreats baffled from the sturdy walls without and good cheer within. The song, the toast, and the jest go round, and, the faces of your companions shine through the thick fragrant atmosphere like the moon through a summer mist. One rises, and -But my pipe is out, it is growing late, and one cannot conjure without the fumes of the magic incense. I knock out the ashes on the hearthstone, as an offering to those friends of the old time by whose firesides my pipe has so often been smoked, and from whose hospitable stores it has so often been replenished.

JOURNALISM.

That somewhat stale phrase, "The pen is mightier than the sword" certainly expresses the truth as regards every instance in which those two instruments may be compared. But the pen cannot be said to exercise such an enormous influence in the administration of the affairs of the universe, except in connection with its auxiliary the printing press. What influence for good as also for evil has the printing press exerted upon our language, and upon the thoughts of the people! To-day the great medium through which the art of printing exerts its influence, is unquestionably the periodical press. In all civilized countries the daily newspaper is looked upon as one of the necessaries of life, and its views upon all questions are by its own partizans at least bsorbed and endorsed without the least ques-

tion. The ordinary Englishman as he reads the Times, very seldom dissents materially from the views expressed in the leading articles; on the contrary, as he reads he accepts those views with complacency and lays down the paper saying, " A very good article, but that is what I have always thought upon the subject" whilst in reality such thoughts never entered his head, and would probably if presented to him in conversation by a friend have been rejected as unworthy of notice. The same is the case with the leading papers of every country, city, town and village. The city merchant imbibes the thoughts served up to him in an able article in his favorite morning paper, with as little dissent as does the farmer the somewhat crude views presented in the weekly periodical of the town or village. The influence thus exerted upon the thought is equalled only by that exerted upon the language, and education of the people.

Marsh, whilst admitting many advantages which have accrued to the language by means of the periodical press, thinks that upon the whole its influence upon the purity of language has been deleterious. If such is the case we should be careful to guard against the deterioration of the purity of our language.

Now since the influence of the periodical press is so great, ought not care to be taken that those in whose hands this power is placed, should be worthy in every respect of their position, thoroughly acquainted not only with the subjects of which they are treating, but also with the philosophy, structure, and idioms of their language, and able to make use of that language in its purity.

Journalism has grown to be an important and noble profession, and we wonder that hitherto no steps have been taken by the leading Universities of the world towards affording the aspirant for journalistic honours, an opportunity of making himself thoroughly acquainted with all the branches of the profession which he has chosen. We remember hearing Prof. Goldwin Smith, at a late University Lecture eulogize the profession, and if we mistake not he advocated the establishment in Universities of Chairs of Journalism. The knowledge of a journalist must be extensive and varied. During the practice of his profession he is called upon to treat of many questions involving an acquaintance with every branch of science and of Art. To treat of politics, one must have a broad and comprehensive knowledge not only of the politics of the present day, but also of the history of all ages and nations. Social questions arise and to deal with these, the writer must be acquainted with political and social economy.

An editor must not be ignorant of law, and he must be a connoisseur in the fine arts; whilst to treat of any question in a suitable style he must have been a close student of literature, rhetoric and logic. But even yet we have not the model editor. Acquaintance with these subjects is necessary but that one may write the popular editorial, a large amount of experience is needed. What other of those professions for the study of which Colleg is are established through the length and breadth of the land calls for such an extensive and universal study as this, and yet what profession has suffered such neglect?

To our minds the College paper which is now an institution in every University of standing, is the fruit of this neglect. Students, with views more advanced than the venerable professors themselves have felt this want, and the College paper is the result ; and as a rule we think the editors of these papers are those who, looking forward to active life as journalists, are thus compelled to supply this much felt want by their own enterprise. We hope that ere long the powers that be will waken to the necessity for such a Chair in Universities. Then when each University has a promising school of journalism sending out each year men well trained in their profession, we may expect to see the daily newspaper an organ of high intellectual character, an authority in every circle of life, political and social, an instrument for good and indeed "the feature the most characteristic of the life and literature of Anglo-Saxon humanity in the present age."

L. R. Church, is Attorney General of Province of Quebec.

CORRESPONDENCE, College Songs.

To the Editors of the McGILL GAZETTE.

Sirs—I have much pleasure in addressing you on a subject to which you have referred in your last issue. The resolution passed at the meeting of Arts students on the afternoon of the Annual University Lecture was in the following terms : "Resolved, That the Editors of the "MCGILL GAZETTE be requested to insert a "notice in its next issue, calling upon all Grad-" uates, Undergraduates, and old students to " torward to the Editors any words they may " possess of old College Songs, within a month " from the date of such issue."

At the meeting referred to, a discussion took place upon the subject of College Songs, and all were agreed as to the desirability of obtaining a collection. It was suggested that any songs that might be received in response to the notice, should be revised by a Committee and published in the GAZETTE one in every issue, as long as the stock lasted ; also that in addition to the copies of the paper printed, a certain number of the songs should be struck off on loose sheets in such a manner as to admit of their being collected together in the form of a d book when the collection might be considered complete. McGill College has had various versions from time to time of " Vive la compagnie" (the College song par excellence,) of "Upidee" and possibly of some others. If the scattered fragments of these could be got together they would form the nucleus of a collection; and there are many College songs the common property of all students speaking the English language, which could be used to supplement those hitherto used in McGill. These could be obtained from members of other Universities in England and elsewhere, who I have no doubt would be glad to furnish them if applied to by some of your readers. There must be a large number of English national student' songs which would be well adapted to our College if they could be secured. The University Glee Club is expected to render valuable assistance in promoting this object. It is possible that a few new songs of a suitable character might be written and set to music by members of this Club.

It might be suggested to one any who may feel himselves to have a mission to supply with new and original compositions any deficiencies that may exist in the quantity of available matter that nothing must be accepted without some slight literary merit. While care must be taken to secure propriety in taste and morals, it is of equal importance that nothing destitute of vigour and force should find its way into print. In music of course the Chorus is the best style.

If the readers of the GAZETTE will make an endeavour to bring this matter to a successful issue we may hope for a good college song book before next year, and one which may be enlarged at any future time as the demands for music increase.

I think that the thanks of the students are due to the Editors for the promptness with which in their last issue they inserted the notice headed "College Songs."

A. M.

GYMNASIUM.

DEAR GAZETTE,

Every one will admit that a certain amount of Physical Culture is necessary for a student during his College career. Now that foot ball is over, the only Exercises which remain are the Gymnastic classes, and the Snow Shoe Club. I am not aware that the Students in Arts should possess a monopoly in the former of these Exercises, and yet, the present state of affairs would seem to imply that the College authorities hold this opinion. For, the hours of Gymnastic Classes are exceedingly unsuited to the Students of Medicine and Law. I would respectfully suggest that classes be formed at such hours as will suit these Students. I might also remark that one would suppose that a University Gymnasium would be situated on the College grounds and be open at all hours to students. Most students have one or two spare hours during the day, which, were the Gymnasium convenient; might be more profitably spent than at present.

I hope that something will be done to form classes for us Students in Medicine and

LAW.

A COLLEGE SKATING RINK.

It has often occurred to us that the College grounds, which are the source of so much pleasure in summer and in autumn, might be made to yield quite as much enjoyment during the cold season. Few places in the City are better situated for the making of a skating rink. The students of the Jesuits' College are in the habit of making a rink every year, which has proved a great success, being patronized by a large number of the students, and by the Reverend Fathers themselves. Our own grounds are even better adapted for such a purpose, being more extensive and more easily drained. Any portion of the grounds could readily be flooded from the hydrant in rear of the College buildings. Should such a project approve itself to the College authorities, we think it might be carried out very satisfactorily and cheaply. One, man, constantly employed, would be able to keep the rink clear of snow, and in the event of any unusual fall of snow, we are sure that the students would come en masse and lend a ready hand. The man in charge of the rink might (Academia consentiente) be lodged in one of the unoccupied rooms of the College buildings, and suitable arrangements might also be made for his board. If the annual subscription were fixed at two dollars for the students, we are certain that a sufficiently large amount would be obtained from the students of the different faculties to defray all expenses. During the morning hours, when nearly all the men are attending lectures, outsiders might be admitted at the usual prices for open-air rinks. In the afternoon and evening none but the students and the ladies they might invite would be allowed to skate.

It is needless for us to dwell on the varied pleasures which a rink would afford, pleasures to which few of the students are strangers. We sincerely hope then, that steps will at once be taken for the attainment of so desirable an object.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

The meetings of the U. L. Society have so far this Session been well attended. The

Debates have been interesting and well sustained and the only cause for regret is, that so few of the undergraduates take an interest in the proceedings. We would urge upon the students, especially those who may be looking forward to a professional life, to take advantage of the opportunities offered by this Society.

On Nov. 1 3th the question "Was the French revolution beneficial to France ?" was discussed and decided in the affirmative. On the 20th the question "Does England owe more to the Whigs than to Tories!" gave the undergraduates an opportunity of displaying their knowledge of the English Constitution and History. It was owing no doubt to the Radical nature of the Society, that the question was decided in favour of the Whigs. We would suggest to those who voted for the Whigs, the question, "What would England be but for the Tories!"

GLEE CLUB.

A committee meeting of the Glee Club was held Friday, Nov. 12th, at which the following resolutions were carried. 1st. That the club be called "The University Glee Club."

2nd. That the subscription be 75 cents, the money to be used in buying music, &c.

3rd. That a concert be given soon after Christmas.

4th. That the club meet every Friday, at 7.45 p.m., for practice. These resolutions were afterwards submitted to the general meeting, and approved of ; after which the Club had their usual practice. In order to ascertain the strength of our club,with a view to arranging for a concert, it is absolutely necessary that the members should attend regularly and punctually. Remember, the practice is every Friday at 7.45 p. m., sharp!

EXCHANGES.

We have been heretofore under the impression that the solitude of rural retirement exercised a soothing influence upon the human mind. But the exchange editor of the *Dartmouth*, is an exception to this rule, if it be one, and the tranquil shades of Hanover serve but as a vantage ground from which he can hurl

his thunderbolts at his contemporaries. From the common lot we can claim no immunity, and the shortcomings of our initial number afford an occasion for the display of his righteous wrath. We are strongly advised to improve, advice which we certainly intend to take. A perusal of our own columns clearly shows us that we might do better, while a tolerably extensive acquaintance with the Dartmouth, both in its past and present form, confirms us in the belief that we might do worse. Our contemporary is particularly severe upon our gloom and solemnity. We recall that old story of the two partners in the temperance lecture business, one of whom expatiated upon the evils of alcohol, while the other appeared as the example of its deleterious effects. In its lecture upon solemnity, the Dartmouth has the advantage of these peripatetic gentlemen, inasmuch as its own columns afford both the wise precept and the evil example.

A HEALTH TO OLD MCGILL.

(Written for the Class of '74.)

The lights around the festal board, On plate and crystal quiver, The generous wine is freely poured, The toast awaits the giver, So here's a health to old McGill, With feelings proud and tender, Let each a brimming bumper fill, And loving homage render.

Chorus.—Another toast before we part Another bumper fill, boys ! A toast that comes from every heart, A health to Old McGill, boys !

> For what more fitting than that we The night before we sever,— Meet here once more in company, To part, perchance, for ever. Should, ere we go our several ways, The tie again acknowledge, That binds, with links of happy days Us to our dear old College.

Chorus.-Another toast &c.

Though of each man, the future fate Be past our divination, For some the laurel wreath may wait, For some a humbler station. Yet each to each we still are found, By ties, time cannot sever. So as the wine cup circles round McGill, McGill forever!

Chorus.-Another toast &c.

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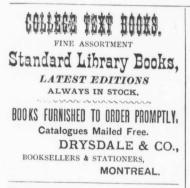
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