

The Acadia Athenæum.

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THE
Acadia Athenæum.

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ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

The Sanctum.

ACADIA is being blessed with bunting. Mr. John B. Mills, M. P. elect for Annapolis, recently presented the members of our three institutions with a Canadian flag. As our native-born students are nothing if not Canadian in their ideas, the gift was appreciated, and a proper acknowledgment sent to the donor.

THE Sophomores have ever shown a spirit of loyalty to their *Alma Mater*. This was unmistakably proven a few days since when upon the receipt of the Dominion flag above mentioned, a member of the Sophomore class quietly informed us that at a class-meeting previously they had passed a resolution to present such a flag, according to the suggestion made by a contributor in the January number of this paper. We are glad to hear it, Sophs, and do not think for one moment because Mr. Mills forestalled your intentions, that your presentation would

be the less acceptable. There should be one flag at least for each of our public buildings. The Athenæum and Gymnasium are still without recognition of British and Canadian nationality. The Athenæum should have one Canadian flag at least which can be called its own; and we believe that you are in a position to see that hope realized. Besides floating upon special occasions, there will be ample use for decorations on other public days. Acadia is always ready to show her attachment to her Country's flag.

THE religious ardor and Christian zeal in which our college was founded produced from the beginning a warm place in the affections of her constituents. Deeply rooted though this feeling was at the start, her religious history has deepened and made more permanent and possibly more practical the affection of the Maritime Baptists for their college. At no time has a more intelligent and sincere interest been taken in religious work by the Christian students both among themselves, their unsaved classmates, and the surrounding communities than during the present year. A disposition to work for Christ and for souls, showed itself at the commencement of the college year and has continued. Rich spiritual blessings have rested upon the institutions in answer to faithful prayer and intelligent Christian work. A number of special meetings were held under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., and as a result a goodly number sought and found the Lord. All the institutions shared in the blessing and the spiritual life of many has been greatly quickened. Upon request, Rev. G. O. Gates of St. John, gladly came to us, full of love for Christ and for souls, and spent a week very profitably with us. His earnest words inspired many to higher attainments in Christian life. The development in spiritual life among the students has been a particularly pleasing feature of this year's work to those who have watched it most carefully. The attendance at religious services has been unusually large, and nearly all of the professing Christians have ever been ready to give a reason for the hope within

them. Thus, in viewing the work of the year, we may express the result in one word, PROGRESS. Those who have ever devoted to Acadia their best wishes, their prayers, and their means will here find abundant reward for past efforts and additional encouragement to attempt greater things for the most worthy object of practical Christian sympathy.

WE learn that E. W. Sawyer, B. A., who during the past two years has had charge of the finances of Chipman Hall and Acadia Seminary, has resigned that position. Mr. Sawyer has proven himself a good financier, giving entire satisfaction to both executive and students. Now that a new appointment is likely to be made, we venture a suggestion, and that is that the existing treasuries of Acadia be merged into one. It may not be generally known that for the purpose of caring for the funds of the institutions three regular treasurers are employed who devote part of their time to financial work. Besides the one above mentioned, and the general treasurer of the college, the Academy has a guardian of her finances, while the president of the University is not infrequently called upon to devote a part of his valuable time to making out and receipting term bills, and controlling the funds of special objects. This savors of division of labor, but, unfortunately, it is not the kind which political economists recognize as conducive to the greatest measure of success. The different gentlemen having charge of the work are competent and faithful but in addition to their regular professional duties, they almost invariably find the financial work placed upon their shoulders too great a tax upon their strength. Moreover, is there not sufficient business of this kind to warrant the employment of a treasurer during the greater part of his time? The salaries paid to the present officers would go far to remunerate such a man for his services. We readily understand how the existing appointments came to be made as the exigencies of the case demanded additional help; but with the growth of the other departments of the institutions the financial management should keep pace. A permanent secretary-treasurer with an office on the grounds, is an institution which Acadia needs, and one which we trust she will soon enjoy.

THE Senior Theses have been read, and the class of '91 starts bravely down the incline which leads to graduation, the last station in the college journey. One more halting place has been distanced, one more difficult spot has been safely passed. In previous years the delivery of Theses met with a less hearty response on part of the students at large than the exercise merited. As the classes increased in numbers, it became to be considered by some a very mild inquisition process, which they must bear. The exercise was intended for the whole college, and all were supposed to be present. The papers were carefully prepared, well written and delivered as a rule; but to crowd a large number of students in one room and keep them there for two or three hours steady reading was in most cases uncomfortable, to say the least. Then as the exercise came in the afternoon during study hours, it was unsatisfactory to abandon study for what was considered by far too many, wrongly or otherwise, a lot of theses scholarly, abstruse and much beyond the comprehension of the members of other classes. This form of reading has had its day and use, and we believe that it has been the means of deepening thought upon a great variety of subjects, presented in a clear and concise manner to the students, which would probably have been gathered in no other way. But it is not to be denied that much more might have been attained had the students felt a deeper interest in the matter. The size of the present Senior class made the exercise a task of several more days than usual, and led to what we consider a decided improvement. The expectation of reading your profound production before classmates and fellow-students may be inspiring and lead to the best endeavours; but under the new system something more than reading is required. The faculty have taken upon themselves alone to listen to the Theses, and best of all, they do not fail to criticise each paper at its close. Geographical positions are then proposed, historical and philosophical theories exploded or established, in fact every encouragement is given to thoroughly master a subject in all its details. When an allusion is made, it must be searched out and explained. Take the Senior Theses as a whole, we are decidedly in favor of them; and as we look back over our past productions, are inclined to believe that some progress at least has been made.

THERE is an art in reading. Your omniverous book-worm may be among the worst informed of men. A student is often bewildered concerning what books and how many he should read during his course. One thing seems certain. The bend of his mind should not at first be allowed to strongly influence the character of his literary work. It is dangerous to specialize too soon. "Skimming" is another vice; not that every volume begun should be pursued from title page to finis, but merely that what is read should be well assimilated. Books studied for their style may generally best be read only in parts. If they are read for their matter, enough points should be fixed in the mind to give a well-balanced idea of the subject, with every portion definitely and thoroughly understood. How much more shall be acquired depends upon taste. The correct aim appears to be that of having the brain comfortably furnished,—to be able to offer in conversation and writing something more than wooden-seated chairs and uncovered tables, so to speak. Upon the richness of the reserve depends the ease of the entertainer largely. It is a relief to be able to talk without fear that an unexpected movement may brush aside a drapery and reveal our barrenness of thought. Attempts to seem to know are terribly wasteful of nervous energy.

STARING is generally supposed to be the prerogative of a particular and peculiar class. It also has its appropriate place. But wherever that place may be, and whosoever right it may be, certainly it does not belong among the students at eight o'clock Wednesday evening. Nor is it in the least necessary for Acadia to "line up" in the hall and form a guard of honor for the ladies of the Seminary on their exit from prayer-meeting. Need we say more?

IT becomes our painful duty to record the death of another alumnus, Rev. David Freeman, M. A., of Canning, N. S. Mr. Freeman had been in declining health for several months, and in November last, with the fond hope that a change of climate would bring about the desired results in his health, he went South, but all too late; the process of decline was near completion, and on the 18th ult. he passed peacefully into the great beyond.

Mr. Freeman graduated from Acadia in 1850, and afterwards studied at Newton and Rochester Theological schools. In 1855 he was ordained pastor of the Granville street church, Halifax. Removing to Canning some years subsequently, he made this his home as he devoted the remainder of his life to missionary work in the various parts of Nova Scotia. Mr. Freeman during all these years was closely connected with his *Alma Mater*, and at the time of his death occupied the position of Fellow of the University. In his not altogether unexpected removal, the Baptist ministers of the maritime convention have lost an esteemed and devoted fellow-laborer; while his numerous acquaintances will ever with profit remember his exemplary Christian character. To the mourning friends and relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy, and especially to his bereaved son, who is now a member of the graduating class at Acadia.

AMONG the things which ought to be, but are not, we notice in the list of the fourth-year subjects on our printed curriculum a series of lectures on Classic, English, French and German Literature, and the History of Mathematics. These have appeared on the calendar for two years, but as yet have failed to enter the realm of reality. We also find that "at the opening of the college . . . the Senate provides for the delivery of an oration in the Assembly Hall." This also is mythical. Yet, although we cannot pierce very far into the Stygian darkness that enwraps the plans and purposes of the powers that be, we at least venture to interject a modest "Why?" The answer is direct, and moderately crushing—"Nobody comes to hear the October oration, and the professors have not at present time for the other work."

Regarding the last, would it not now be possible, in view of the recent additions to the teaching staff, to arrange for the accomplishment of what has already been placed on the calendar as a desirable possibility? To teach well the side of a subject that is most valuable to the student, the instructor must have a greater or less acquaintance with its entire scope. And a course of lectures on the untaught portion, which equal from a literary standpoint to anything of the kind to which we are accustomed, would also have special interest from its bearing on our work. We know our teachers too exclusively from the class-room quarter, and do not thereby enjoy all the advantage which they are able, and doubtless willing to give us.

As to the other, we must admit that the first few days of the term are an inauspicious time to collect a large gathering of students. But possibly a few weeks later a very satisfactory audience might be obtained. At all events, it seems a pity to have the custom become a dead letter.

Literary.

THE FLAG,

The legendary annals of the past ;
 And the new halo of historic page
 Recording a young nation's heritage,
 Make proud thy folds now to the breezes cast.

Fair Flag, is this our manhood come at last !
 For thy bright glory shall a people wage
 A conflict peaceful, for a surer gage
 That union welding slowing shall be fast.

Fair Flag of Canada, float thou on high !
 Among God's people, tell us we dare stand
 As nations stand. Give power to the soul-
 flame ;
 To the proud glance that lights a nation's eye ;
 To the warm clasp of brother-loving hand,
 Born of the faith that dwells upon her name.

Wolfville, N. S.

J. F. HERBIN.

MUSIC.

AN ancient philosopher taught that the legitimate end of man was the pursuit of pleasure, and that in virtue was found the highest happiness. Says Ruskin in one of his lectures—"So far from being immoral, little else except art is moral." Of the different arts which contribute to this purer happiness, music though the youngest stands first. While, the sculptor chisels from the stone a face which is supposed to indicate the disposition of the individual and the poet paints nature to the mind's eyes, the musician attempts to refill the soul with the sensations experienced when in contact with nature. Music improves the mind, refines the senses, and fills us with the sense of beauty.

Although there is no real history of music previous to the 12th century, it is believed to have existed from the earliest times. Among the Jews praise songs were abundant, and it is probable that contemporary nations were not far behind.

Antiphonal music, consisting of responses between different choirs, seemed to be the earliest form of these religious songs. This style of music is now obsolete although efforts have recently been made to revive it in certain New England churches. Trade songs formed a conspicuous part of ancient music. Then it was true as now that,—

"Song sweetens toil, however wild the sound."

Modern travellers tell us that these trade songs still are sung in many countries. Thus in Greece each class of laborers has its own style of singing; in Abyssinia even the potato-laborers have their own peculiar songs; and from the cradle to the grave song is the constant companion of the Russian peasant. Hence the old story of Amphiion building Thebes with his lyre contains a truth. Yet modern invention seems to be divorcing song from labor. The modernist must sing to the latest patent, instead of to the motion of his own untiring limbs.

Musical instruments were early pressed into service. As the primitive mind detected *time before tune*, the first instruments were of precursion, used to mark intervals of time. Reed and stringed instruments with their numberless varieties soon followed. Yet all this ancient music consisted of but one part, varied only by responses and the mingling of different voices. To gain an idea of the music of our ancestors we need only listen to a number of singers and players all performing the same part.

All arts have owed much to the church, and Italy as the theological centre naturally took the lead in music. It is generally accepted that the Italians were the first to separate music into the divisions now called soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The next step was to combine them to produce harmony. Music as an art may be said to date from this point. Then, following the renaissance as its latest and, in the opinion of some, its greatest result, came the musical era, which began in 1725, and closed seventy-five years later. During this period the Italian, German and French opera-houses, like the theatres of Greece and England during the Periclean and Elizabethan periods, were daily the scene of new productions. The composers of this time wrote each piece for a particular individual. Each master had a number of apprentices. He had no knowledge of the vocal apparatus, nor the remedies for particular vocal defects, but was a perfect judge of the voice. If the first voice did not suit, another was tried till one of sufficient promise was found. In the vigorous course of training which followed it was not uncommon to keep a boy from his twelfth to his fifteenth year confined to the scales. The result of such training was a degree of efficiency now unknown. Vernon Lee says,— "The vocal music of the eighteenth century was infinitely more difficult than our own. It did not require greater

natural gift but vastly more skill. Our best singers are scarcely able to cope with music written for third rate singers by Bach and Mozart." Yet from this very proficiency came an influence which hastened the termination of this, the only great music period in history. There appeared a school of musical acrobats who sought to perform some remarkable feat. Writers no longer sought to adapt the composition to the singer; to execute a piece unfitted to the voice was an especial victory over nature. Decay could be the only result of such folly. Hence, with the present century began a decline which has continued to the present.

Regarding the music of our own day, the vocal seems to be suffering from the aggression of the instrumental. Man's capabilities are limited and as says Pacchurotti,—“The study of music is too long for our life. When we are young we have the voice but not the knowledge, when old the knowledge but not the voice.” We should follow the Italians in holding the instrument as merely an assistant to the voice. In this, as every other department of life, the first twelve years are of immense value. The reform in singing has rightly begun in the public school. But at its present rate of advancement it will be some years before we reach the perfection of the German system under which everyone has an opportunity to gain musical instruction, and every school master must be also a music teacher. Further, there are many to whom music is nothing more than a pleasant noise. We believe this class would be reduced to the minimum by introducing into all primary schools efficient musical instruction. Surely the great influence excited by music in the past and its greater possibilities for the future will justify additional attention. It is needed in the family to combat vice, for there is nothing that satisfies and creates a home sentiment like music. We need it through such songs as “My Own Canadian Home” to co-operate with our poetry and story in building up a strong national feeling in Canada. Says a critic,—“Every art in its beginning is indebted to the church and returns to her in its highest development.” The question of church music will scarcely bear a reference. All admit the great indebtedness of religion to music, and the dreadful disproportion of its importance to the attention it receives in even our best churches.

Is music to be classed among the lost arts? Critics

tell us that it has steadily declined during the present century, but that this decline has been in a constantly diminishing ratio. Centuries ago certain musicians bemoaned the decline of music, but as each style became exhausted a better system succeeded. Moreover, we see in music an analogy to the *ebb and flow* of poetry. It was long before the study of the old writers, with other causes, produced the Shakspearian era. So we may look hopefully to the increasing interest in classical music to produce another period, when with our minds tuned to the pitch of nature, we shall echo her sweet refrains. Meanwhile, as says a recent writer: “Let the nation break forth in music. Let domestic songs tell the story of love and home, national songs make us true to our country; and sacred songs lead our souls into higher and purer life.”

AMERICAN ABORIGINES.

No. II.

THE AZTECS.

When the traveller on the western coast of the Mexican Gulf turns from its restless waters to follow the course of the declining sun, he rapidly rises by a grand succession of natural terraces to the summit of a broad plateau. Here, elevated seven thousand feet above the distant oceans and about midway between them, lies the beautiful valley of Mexico whose gentle slopes, with a circumference of some sixty leagues, surrounds a city bearing the name. This modern city occupies the site of the ancient Indian capital which stood on the shore of a charming lake, with its fortunes so nearly entrusted to the placid waters themselves, that it appeared to Europeans, “the Venice of the Western World.” This spot saw the beginning of the Aztec civilization. It was here that the sturdy warriors from the North, scorning all claim to such lofty lineage as fed the vanity of the Peruvian, raised their standard; and at the end of two centuries the sovereign of a kingdom whose subjects were originally comprised in the inhabitants of a petty city ruled from sea to sea, and made felt the terror of his arms from the Rio Grande to the Nicaraguan Lake.

That benignant policy, which mitigated the horrors of war and assuaged the severity of the Inca's conquests, was unknown at the council fires of the fierce

Aztec. The march of his veterans was not delayed that the arts of peace might induce submission ; nor was his ingenuity taxed as to the best methods of conferring the benefits of his social organizations. He fought for the extermination of his enemies ; and his bloody hand was stayed on the battle-field only that thousands of every conquered race should deck the altars of his gods, that slaves should not be wanting in his palaces, and that his foeman's flesh might be among the delicacies of his table at his triumphal orgies. To find the development of anything worthy the name of civilization among a people of such a nature is strange indeed, and his incongruity of character is explicable only by the fact that their military operations were carried on under a religious fanaticism, and hence cannot be fairly taken as a criterion of the national genius. With this consideration we may in some measure be able to sympathize with this rude people in their efforts for improvement, and regard with a degree of interest the struggle of the human mind to rise above its natural condition, as seen in the progress of the untutored subjects of the Aztec monarchy. We may observe characteristics the very opposite of those displayed in the reckless sacrifice of life that followed every victory, by glancing at the institution of slavery as regulated by the Mexicans. The duties and privileges of the slave were strictly defined by law, and severe penalties awaited all masters who assigned greater than legal tasks or administered other than prescribed punishments. The slave could have a family, hold property, and even own other slaves ; while, by a provision said to be unknown in any other nation, his children were born free. No master thought of selling his slaves unless for purposes of discipline, or obliged to do so by extreme poverty ; but, when the trembling hand of the old warrior could no longer draw the bow and he was awaiting his call to the mansions of the sun, his stern heart softened toward his faithful bondmen and with the last act of life he was wont to set them free.

In the starry canopy above him the Aztec priest read his people's destiny, and whether they were profited by his predictions or not, these observations resulted in a knowledge of many astronomical facts that were unknown to the great philosophers of antiquity. In the darkness of an eclipse the Aztecs saw neither famine nor pestilence, for they were not

ignorant of its cause. Their great festivals kept time with the movements of various constellations. Their calendar showed the periods of the solstices, and of the equinoxes, and that of the passage of the sun across their zenith ; and its correspondence with the almanac of their conquerors, was sufficient to show for its calculators a skill in computation rivalling that of the enlightened nations of christendom. With this knowledge of mathematical science, we find a corresponding advancement in many of the arts. Agriculture, architecture, and sculpture were far in advance of the attainments of the savage, and the Mexican's skill in working the precious metals baffled the imitation of the Spanish goldsmith. The nearest approach to a literature, that was made by the American nations, was found among the Aztecs. Their contemporaries in Peru transmitted messages by means of an ingenious but cumbrous arrangement of variously colored threads ; but the native of Mexico had recourse to hieroglyphics, the highest style of writing attainable by a people ignorant of the alphabet. With his fanciful imitation of natural objects, and representing abstract ideas by the fantastic characters of his imagination, the Indian scribe recorded on the leaf of his native maguey the annals of his nation, and thus preserved for posterity the story of its ancestors.

The form of government in Mexico was an elective monarchy with all legislative function vested in the king ; but there was a constitutional protection against tyranny in the independence of the chief judges with whose decision the sovereign could not lawfully interfere. The dignity of the throne was upheld by the great nobles, most of whom lived in splendor but little inferior to that of the king himself, but their interests seem to have been so closely allied with their lords, that, unlike the feudal barons of Europe, they combined to sustain the central authority. The priests, too, of whom there was a great number, had no small part in the royal councils ; and by virtue of their pretended science of astrology and the power of superstition, they had an influence in the nation that made them the useful agents of the chief magistrate, and led him very frequently to entrust to their hands the supreme power. Cruel as this priestly domination may have been, and however wanton the destruction of life its ceremonial involved, it certainly was not severely rebuked by the boasted Christianity of its conquerors, propagated as that was

by the methods of the Inquisition. Though many of the Aztec institutions are suggestive of mental power and latent possibilities in their originators, yet when tested, in common with those of all other races of the western continent, they have been found wanting. Examples of the instability of the strongest of them are seen in the conquest both of Peru and Mexico. The slavish devotion of the Incas to their emperor had begotten in them an incapacity to act without his direct command; and hence when profane hands were laid upon his sacred person, the thousands of the empire, because unbidden, made no effort to rescue him from a handful of Spanish adventurers. The short-sighted policy of the Mexican ruler, on the other hand, was such that his vast possessions were held together only by the power of his arms and the terror of his name. The wily Cortez seeing this, fanned the smouldering embers of discontent into flame, and then with less than a thousand followers greedily grasped the spoils of the conflagration. Unable to cope with the adverse influences of a foreign civilization, the Aztec has withdrawn from the contest whose results depend upon the survival of the fittest. "And in his faltering step, and meek and melancholy aspect, we read the sad character of the conquered race."

Contributed.

THE AMERICAN STUDENT IN GERMANY.

II.

STUDENT LIFE IN GENERAL.

A man should know everything about something: our age demands specialists. For this purpose the German University will be found of surpassing value. But further, a man should know something about everything. Hence the peculiar fitness of a University situated in the midst of a great city. The student receives a general as well as a special education, and it would be difficult to say which is of higher importance. Each supplements the other. A Harvard professor, writing to a friend here in Berlin, says, "A residence in Germany is helpful to the student mainly because it enables him to gain the mastery of a new language, and gives him a general culture which he can nowhere else receive as fully." President Andrews of Brown, in his parting words of counsel said to me, "Do not neglect the education that lies

beyond the walls of the class-room. Study the people, study the times, and remember that foreign travel is one of the first factors in the education of the wide-awake student." In Berlin there are countless opportunities for study of a general character. Many students come to Berlin from other German cities; few who have attended here are willing to go elsewhere.

The acquirement of the language is of primary importance. This element should not be underestimated. No language is stronger or more expressive than the German, and the study of none is more imperative. It contains almost twice as many words as the English, and is the mother-tongue of millions of people. It is spoken everywhere in Central Europe, and in many sections of our own land. Further than this the Germans are the acknowledged leaders of thought. This is true in Science, in Philosophy, in Theology, in almost every department. Understand their language and you have turned the magic key, and opened to yourself a treasure-house of learning. The wealth of literature bound up within the limits of the German tongue is marvellous. In this connection I would emphasize the value of earnest preparation. The undergraduate student while in College will do well to make himself as proficient as possible in the German language. Then, when he stands within the precincts of the Berlin Royal Library and makes ready to explore its secrets, he will be animated by the spirit of conscious strength and buoyant helpfulness. Yet many men come to Germany with very little knowledge of the language. Most of these spend two or three months in Heidelberg, Hanover, or some other smaller city, devoting all their time and labor to the mastery of the German. Then they journey on to Berlin, arriving here at, or shortly before, the opening of the winter semester. Were the student to gain nothing from his life here except a thorough acquaintanceship with the language, spoken and written, he might consider himself rewarded for his trouble. In point of fact his acquirements cannot be of so limited a character, unless he be wholly recreant to his opportunities.

I have referred to the Royal Library. Many of the rarest works extant are to be found upon its shelves. It has, altogether, over one million volumes. It is open to every student of the University, free of charge, on condition that the honesty of his character is vouched for by one of the professors or officers of

the institution. He may take six books or sets of books from the library each day, and keep the same for one month. He is never allowed access to the books themselves within the library, but may visit the rooms in which the catalogues are kept. The catalogues consist of hundreds of ponderous volumes, containing the names of the books, with their authors, alphabetically arranged. When the student has selected the books he wishes to draw from the library he writes the name of each one on a slip of paper specially designed for that purpose, together with the author's name, the date and place of publication, and his own name and address. Having dropped this paper (or zettel) in one of the numerous zettel-boxes, he may go his way, and return in the course of the following day for his books, which he will probably find awaiting him in the delivery-rooms. It is usually several hours at least before the books are obtained, registered, and ready for delivery. The German proceeds always in a cautious and circumspect manner, and at times (especially if he be a public official) his movements might almost be characterized as *slow*. The University Library is quite near the Royal Library, and contains many valuable works. There are Reading Rooms in connection with both the libraries, well stocked with thousands of reference-books. These are kept in perfect order and are dusted carefully each day. The great Journal Room must not be overlooked. Here one may find the most recent magazines and reviews, published the world over. There are more than 1,200 in all, and the narrow old room, with its many silent inmates busy in their search for knowledge, is a veritable paradise to the student. The only danger is that he will be tempted to spend too much of his time in general reading here. When in pursuit of special topics I have had to restrain myself again and again in this respect. There are other opportunities in Berlin. Opposite the Imperial Palace is a building whose Ionic portico, with its many massive columns, carries one back in thought to Ancient Greece. It is the old Museum, and just behind it is the New Museum. Some of the collections to be found there are unequalled. I have spent many delightful hours in studying the works of Grecian and Assyrian sculptors, and in tracing the changes and development of Art in its various forms, from one century to another. The Gallery of

Antiquities and the Hall of the Heroes are especially interesting to a visitor from the New World. Some idea of the greatness of Berlin will be gained when I mention the fact that there are some 15 other large museums in the city, many of them celebrated and all of them instructive and interesting. A student might spend a profitable lifetime amongst the museums of Berlin. There are also a number of fine picture galleries, where many master pieces may be seen and studied. These galleries are particularly rich in paintings of the Dutch, Flemish, and German schools.

But the student must come in contact also with a larger life. There are social, religious, and political questions in which he finds himself almost unconsciously taking a deep interest. The other day, seeing an old woman tottering beneath a heavy load, a fellow-student said to me, "What a crying shame! The people have good reason for dissatisfaction, when aged women must toil and bear burdens." "Are you a Socialist?" I asked quickly. "Yes!" he replied with emphasis, "my residence in Germany has made me one." Germany does not necessarily imbue our young men with socialistic tendencies, but it invariably turns their thoughts to the consideration of earnest practical problems. Dr. Stuckenburg said to me a short time since, "Most students come to themselves when they come to Berlin. They are waked from their dreams and brought into contact with the great practical realities. As a result their spirits are quickened and they enter upon a life of energy. Germany makes men of thought; it also makes men of action. Great movements centre in this land and especially in its capital city. Du Bois Reymond is, in his special department, the foremost scientist of the age: he has long been a professor in the Berlin University. Dr. Zeller's name is everywhere known in connection with his philosophical treatises. Prof. Wagner is one of the mostcelebrated statisticians and political economists in the world. Adolf Harnack is a power in theological circles, though still a young man. Schrader and Dillman and Pfeiderer are eminent for their learning and are leaders of thought. Just now physicians and patients from every quarter of the globe are coming to this city to profit by the discovery which has given honor and fame to the man whose portrait is in almost every shop window in Berlin—Prof. Koch.

I have presented in outline some of the general advantages which Germany affords to the student. Once within reach of these the pulse beats high and every power is enlisted. It is little wonder that an atmosphere of study prevails, that thought and ambition are fully roused, that intellectual vigor is imparted and the mental vision cleared. I spoke before of the necessity of special preparation. To derive the greatest good from the general as well as the special privileges and opportunities which surround him, to study wisely, to study faithfully; to study what is worth studying and not dissipate his efforts or misuse his time; the student should be controlled by an earnest purpose and armed with a definite method. Having these possessions he may be confident of ultimate success.

AUSTEN K. DEBLOIS.

Exchanges.

Canada, as its name indicates, is a journal truly Canadian in spirit. "The Individual Canadian" is an article well worth reading, and expresses great faith in the future of our country. As a new undertaking, "Canada" seems to have met with a hearty response from Canadian public, and with its present literary tone we bespeak greater things for it in the years yet to be.

The *Normal Light* is upon our table. A recent endeavor on the part of the Normal School students of Fredericton, it has taken a position of which they need not be ashamed.

The editors of *The Woodstock College Monthly* have good reason to congratulate themselves upon the successful completion of the first year's issue of their paper. It has been conducted with sense and ability. "The Ideal Student" is deserving of careful reading by all undergraduates. It is with pleasure we note the interest manifested in their institution, as shown by the space given to "College Notes."

The March number of *The Presbyterian College Journal* is up to its usual high standard. "The Bible and Science," "Education of Ministers," are interesting articles.

The Manitoba College Journal is a neat issue, and among the best of our exchanges.

A good catalogue of English Literature is given in *Delaware College Review*, beginning with Beowulf and taking us down to Gladstone as an author and statesman. The suggestion of organizing "fraternities" to keep college associations in closer remembrance after graduation is a valuable one, and we trust *Delaware* may be successful in her endeavors in this direction.

The *Colby Echo* is a representative college journal. The campus is well sustained.

The Seminary Bema deals with a variety of subjects. The February number is up to its usual standard.

The *Sunbeam* is a well regulated paper. "The People Whom I Have Met" is a very readable article.

Our Societies.

Y. M. C. A.—The special services held during the early part of the month of March were manifestly productive of good results. Some thirty conversions, it is estimated, have taken place. Rev. G. O. Gates of St. John, in accordance with a request of the devotional committee, spent a week, from the 4th to the 11th ult., in leading the religious work. During his sojourn on the Hill, Mr. Gates, by his faithful work in public and private, coupled with his genial manner and gentle manliness, won for himself the esteem and confidence of everybody. His earnest addresses, pointed bible readings, and sympathetic conversations will not soon be forgotten.

Missionary.—At the last monthly meeting held on the 15th ult., the president, Mr. A. C. Kempton, gave a report of the Cleveland convention which he attended as representative of this society. His observing report with its practical bearings clearly evinced that Acadia had made no mistake in the choice of her delegate. Miss Doty read an interesting paper on Australia as a Mission Field, in which she predicted, by reviewing the wonderful transformation in the character of the natives, wrought by the power of the gospel, a hopeful outlook for missionary labor on that island. Rev. Mr. MacEwan, of Windsor, N. S., gave an admirable address on the Telugus. In the short time at his disposal he stated a great many facts and dealt in a

practical way with the living issues in that vast country. The music rendered by the double quartette was suitable to the occasion and, as usual, added much to the success of the meeting. The solos of Miss Young and Mrs. Thomson were a pleasing part of the program.

Literary.—On Friday evening, February 27th, the subject of the abolition of the upper houses of parliament was discussed, six members of the Junior class upholding the affirmative, and an equal number of Sophomores taking the negative. The ground claimed by the Juniors was vigorously contested from the beginning, but the points scored by the Sophomore orators carried the house by a small majority.

Prof. Tufts on the evening of March 6th, delivered an instructive address on Public Credit, which he discussed under the following heads:—1. Origin and Development of National Debts; 2. Present Magnitude and Economic Bearing; 3. Possibility of Payment. The attentive hearing, prolonged applause, and hearty vote of thanks which the professor received testified to the Athenæum's appreciation of his interesting lecture.

On the evening of the 13th ult., a paper from W. H. Staratt, '92, and selections from the Senior Glee Club constituted the programme. Before the meeting adjourned, however, a series of experiments in the production and distribution of gas was given from the generator at the entrance of the hall.

The Seniors and Juniors crossed swords as an equal number both classes discussed Woman's Suffrage on the evening of the 20th. The speakers chosen from both classes were those who had taken little or no part in previous discussions; but as each speaker stated his arguments with clearness and force and with occasional bursts of eloquence, it became evident that their previous retirement was not from lack of ability either as speakers or thinkers. Upon a division of the house being taken the vote stood 38 to 37 in favor of the Seniors who contended for the negative.

Following are the officers for the ensuing quarter:—President, J. W. Litch, '91; Vice-President, W. H. Staratt, '92; Treasurer, S. J. Case, '93; Cor. Sec'y., E. S. Harding, '93; Recording Sec'y., Howard Shaw, '94; Executive Committee, C. E. Morse, '91, (Chairman), H. G. Estabrook, '91, C. E. Seaman, '92, Archibald Murray, '93, A. S. Ford, '94.

Athletic.—The gymnastic exhibition given on the evening of the 14 ult., proving successful in every respect. Instructor Corey is to be congratulated upon the success of his classes.

Lawn Tennis rackets are already coming down from their winter quarters. The first game of the season was played between the Invincibles and Indefatigables, March 14th. At a mass meeting of tennis players held subsequently, it was decided to appoint a committee consisting of one member from each existing or prospective court to co-operate with the A. A. A. A. in arranging for a series of games. It was also decided to intimate to occasional players, and chronic borrowers that the tennis outfits are the private property of individual possessors who henceforth reserve all rights.

Timjinsonian.—The latest move in Timjinsonian circles has been a banquet. On the evening of March 24th, the officers of the club, consisting of Locke, President; Holloway, Sec'y.-Tres.; Litch Phiphon Manipulator; Gates, Chorester; Spurr, Permanent Tonsorial Artist; and MacDonald, Special Scribe, as well as the entire body of members, assembled at the festive board in honor of the approaching departure of the retiring president Mr. Fletcher.

After a satisfactory and thoroughly Timjinsonian investigation of the ultimate ground of reality as posited by Mr. Keddy, the oratorical spirit reigned supreme.

To "Our Society" Mr. Gates responded in his usual witty and pleasing style, tracing in glowing language the inspiring past of the organization.

When "Our departing President" had been duly honoured, Mr. Litch remained standing. He reminded the members of the important service performed by Mr. Fletcher on their behalf, and as a token of their respect and appreciation presented to him a "barl" with a recommendation to crawl in and there remain. The feelings of the ex-president entirely overcame him. Twice he attempted to speak, but in vain. At last mastering his emotion in a thoroughly Timjinsonian manner, he informed the club that as soon as possible after his arrival in Halifax, he would "crawl in his bare" for good.

Mr. MacDonald made one of his usual agreeable efforts on behalf of "Our Representative Organ," while Mr. Holloway in turn mapped out the "Future Destiny of the Club."

On "Our present Mode of Initiation" Mr. Locke offered a few remarks. He deplored the project lately presented of lowering the standard of initiation to fifteen hands. He was also strongly in favor of retaining the coffin method and the swallowing of the tennis-ball.

"Our Next Supper" was graphically drawn by Mr. Spurr. In glowing language he described future re-unions in the old halls in years that have yet to be. His description of the ideal turkey as one without bones was observed to again moisten the cheek of the departing president with tears.

A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the mother and cousin of the tonsorial artist and also to Mrs. Keddy for tangible evidences of interest in the club.

After singing "Auld Lang Syne" a very pleasant evening came to an end, and the club adjourned "Ofaafa."

Personals.

F. S. Messenger, B. A., '90, paid us a short visit on his return from the University of New York, where he had been pursuing his medical course. He is now rusticated at Paradise. We hope to see him soon again on one of his occasional visits eastward.

Rev. Harry D. Bently, B. A., '81, has for some time been engaged in pastoral work in connection with the Second Baptist Church, Winnipeg.

E. J. Morse, B. A., '80, since his admission to the bar, has entered into a copartnership with Mr. Aubrey Blanchard, LL. B., of Windsor. The new firm has the best wishes of the ATHENÆUM.

O. H. Cogswell, B. A., '90, has wandered to the Pacific, and is now wielding the ferule at Victoria, B. C. Mr. Cogswell is quite enthusiastic over the prospects of the coast country.

Rev. W. B. Hutchinson, B. A., '86, a few months ago settled at Topeka, Kansas, where he is doing effectual service.

W. E. Boggs, B. A., '87, who sailed for India in September, arrived safely at Ramapatam in the

early part of '91, and is now engaged in assisting his father, Rev. W. B. Boggs, D. D., in educational work.

M. C. Smith, M. D., D. D. S., who a few years ago took select studies at Acadia, practises his profession at Lynn, Mass., where he is doing a flourishing business. Dr. Smith has not forgotten his *Alma Mater*, but is about to bring forward a scheme, which he tangibly endorses, for the construction of a building of which the college is much in need.

S. E. Gourley, B. A., '72, of Truro, N. S.; Neil McLeod, B. A., '69, Premier of P. E. I., and Hon. Silas Alward, D. C. L., '83, have recently been made Q. C's.

C. M. Woodworth, B. A., '90, who has just completed the first year work at Dalhousie Law School, called on us a short time ago. We regret to learn of his continued ill health, but trust that the treatment he is now receiving at the Victoria General Hospital will have the desired effect.

C. H. Miller, B. A., '87, and L. J. Lovitt, B. A., '88, have lately received the degree of M. D. from the University of New York.

E. P. Fletcher, '91, left us a few days ago to take his former position of instructor in the School for the Blind, Halifax. We are pleased to know that he has made arrangements to complete the remainder of his course by private study. Mr. Fletcher, in the four years spent here, made a fine record for himself and no fears need be entertained for his final exams.

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Locals.

"Brussel."

"Secretary."

Billy was lost.

Lou was there.

"Who's a duffer?"

"Eaw, Haw, Haw."

"Pull in your heads."

"No local column next year."

Prof.—What was there remarkable about the inventor of the guillotine?

Student.—Why, he was the first man to be hanged on it.

The occasion of the greatest applause mentioned in history, the time that Samson brought down the house.

Prof.—What person is the verb in?

Student.—Genitive.

Prof.—What?

Student.—Oh, the plural.

A certain junior is inquiring "Why does a carpenter use tobacco?"

Ans.—Because it is a little vice.

"Next take it up;—Now Mr. G.

Why are we nearest to the moon,

When she has reached her greatest height?"

Replied J. B., "I cannot see

Why it is so, unless it be

The aberration of the light."

A Freshman says that one line is a verse, two lines make a couplet, three lines make a triplet, four lines make a quadruped.

March 26, 1831.

To the Local Editors,

DEAR SIRS,

You will have to fill in our column this month with other matter, as I have not been attending class regularly on account of ill health.

Co'sn, Sec'y.

For the benefit of students intending to write invitations in June, we suggest the following style:

DEAR MISS,

I take the liberty to write you in the form of an epistle, to see whether you will favor me with your company.

Yours Affectionately,

W. H.

P. S.—Whether you accept or not, please let me know. W.

A Soph with a look of melancholy depicted on his countenance, which indicated that some great responsibility rested upon him, announced as he rose to recite,—“I believe I received the education of Milton.”

Student, (rising to read his essay).—I might say before I begin, that I haven't any conclusion.

Prof.—We deal with finite quantities in this department, but you may commence and at the expiration of the hour we'll draw our own conclusions.

Senior, (enthusiastically discussing woman's suffrage).—Now, if this right were given to women it would help, help,—*Anxious Classmate.*—Help me or I die.

Chipman Hall receives occasional visits from a professional razor honor who does not always get ahead of everybody. Entering a room a few days ago, he sought employment and was promptly given a piece of steel which he had brightened but a few days before. Hurling anathemas upon his competitors, he went vigorously to work and after spending nearly an hour upon it, he was quietly thanked by his employer for calling to complete the job for which he was already paid.

A fair admirer of the athletic performance given at the late gymnastic exhibition, observing the need of a coal shovel, invested in the necessary article and sent it to the student in charge with the following lines:—

To express appreciation of your late fine exhibition,

Pray permit me to present this humble article of use;

And I trust the gymnasium may ever grow and prosper,

And the sons of old Acadia rival Hercules and Zeus.

The recipient was at first tempted to encircle the gift with a delicately tinted ribbon and place it in some conspicuous part of his room, but upon mature consideration he decided to follow instructions rather than sentiment. A few days later he was rewarded by the receipt of another which now ministers to his emotions.

The residents of Chipman Hall were pleased to receive visits on different occasions last month from several of the professors and teachers of the sister institutions. Profs. Jones, Tufts, Shaw, the latter accompanied by Mrs. Shaw; Misses Neily, Thomson, and Reeves of the Seminary; and Miss Hail of the College, were among the number who thus favored us with their company at tea.

The Juniors in preparing for the annual Geological Expedition are reported to have appointed the following officers:—Capt., A. F. Newcomb; 1st Mate, J. L. Churchill; 2nd, A. V. Pineo; Boatswain, O. N. Chipman; Carpenter, I. Crombie; Cook, C. T. Illsley; Assistant, H. Staratt; Cabin Boy, G. R. Baker; Able Bodied Seaman, C. E. Seaman, C. E. Chipman, A. J. Crockett, C. B. Locke, W. G. MacFarlane; Sounder, A. A. Shaw; Purser, J. B. Ganong; Pilot, W. T. Stackhouse; Bell Boy, A. R. Tingley; Fireman, W. L. Archibald; Supercargo, T. F. Higgins; Chaplain, E. M. McLeod.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Rev. G. O. Gates, M. A., Judge Steadman, Bernard Harvey, J. L. Haley, \$2.00 each; W. L. Archibald, T. E. Roop, H. Y. Corey, E. H. Nichols, A. C. Just, G. F. Richan, Ernest Harding, H. R. Simonson, E. E. Daley, \$1.00 each; C. A. Shaw, 75 cents; B. F. Saunders, 50 cents; J. G. Eagles, \$1.50, (ad).

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