



VOL. IV.—NEW SERIES.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, JANUARY 12, 1878.

No. 5

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THE GAZETTE requests contributions of 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.

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UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

VOL. IV.—NEW SERIES.

MONTREAL, JANUARY 12, 1878.

No. 5.

(From the German of Goethe.)

THE OLD HARPER'S SONG.

I.

What sounds are those which from the hall,
And o'er the bridge I hear?
Those strains should echo through this wall,
And greet a monarch's ear.
So spake the King—the page retires—
His answer brought, the King desires
The minstrel to appear.

II.

Hail, Sire! And hail each gallant knight!
Fair dames, I greet ye well!
Like heaven, this hall with stars is bright,
But who your names may tell?
What matchless glories round me shine!
But 'tis not now for eyes like mine,
On scenes like these to dwell.

III.

The minstrel raised his eyes inspired,
And struck a thrilling strain;
Each hero's heart is quickly fired;
Each fair one thrills with pain;
The king enchanted with the bard,
His magic talent to reward
Presents his golden chain.

IV.

O deck me with no chains of gold;
Such gift becomes the knight,
Before whose warrior eyes, so bold,
The rushing squadrons fight;
Or let the glittering bauble rest
Upon your chancellor's honored breast—
He'll deem the burden light.

V.

I sing but as the young bird sings,
That carols in the tree,
The rapture of the music brings
Its own reward to me.
Yet would I utter one request,
That of your wine—one cup—the best,
Be given to-day by thee.

VI.

The cup is brought, the minstrel quaffed—
He thrills with joy divine.
Thrice happy home where such a draft
Is given—and none repine!
When fortune smiles, then think of me,
And thank kind heaven, as I thank thee,
For such a cup of wine.

W. H. S.

PHIDIAS.

It was shortly before the battle of Marathon that Phidias was born, and he died in prison shortly before the commencement of the Peloponnesian war. This immortal man was as much calumniated during his lifetime as he has been applauded since his death. With the Odeon, the Parthenon, and the Propylæ his name is imperishably associated. One of the first figures which caught the gaze of the mariner approaching the Piræus was the colossal statue of Athene Promachos, which attracted the eyes of antiquity as its great originator attracts the attention of posterity. The Lemnian Athene, and the statue of Athene which he placed in the Parthenon, were muciless conspicuous, but little less celebrated, than the Athene Promachos. His greatest work was the Olympian Zeus, but the frieze of the Parthenon derives a melancholy interest from the circumstances of his death. Among the multitudinous figures with which that celebrated frieze was crowded he was charged with having placed himself and Pericles in conspicuous positions. This was only a secondary charge. The principal count in the indictment against him was peculation of the public gold. He was charged with having appropriated to his own private use some of the gold which had been given him to ornament the public works. The trials of Anaxagoras, of Aspasia, and of Phidias, were almost synchronistic. Anaxagoras was tried and condemned in his absence; Aspasia was successfully defended by Pericles, whose eloquence could not, however, save the great sculptor.

What is the reason that, with all our universities, we are unable to produce artists whose works will equal those of Phidias? We would not wonder if it was because there were no universities in their time that the Greek and Roman artists were enabled to leave behind them works which all men admire, but which no man can imitate. The attention which a university education divides into as many fragments as there are subjects on the college curriculum would,

were it concentrated upon a single subject, make a man immortal. No Greek or Roman youth was under an obligation to bestow upon the problem of Euclid a considerable quantity of the time and the talents which nature impelled him to give to the cultivation of an acquaintance with the principles of painting, of poetry or of sculpture. Every modern student must know a little of almost every subject which is appropriated to his year. If for any of these subjects, however, any of these students dares to show an inclination which leads him to neglect the rest, his life is made as miserable as possible. He is told by the professor of natural philosophy that he will not be allowed to take honors in classes, because he is neglecting his mathematical studies. He is forbidden to abandon subjects for which he has a natural distaste, in order to devote his undivided attention to a subject for which nature had planted a passion in his mind. Had this been the case in the early ages of civilization, would Greece have produced her great orators and artists? Would Roman law have lived to be the fountain of modern jurisprudence? Had the attention of Phidias been divided into as many branches as there are subjects in science, or objects in art, the frieze of the Parthenon would, in all probability, never have made him immortal.

—:—:—
WAITING.

There is, among the multitudes
Who make the melodies of heaven,
A harper who to God was given
By one who waits in solitudes
Till 'twixt him and the golden shore
The gloomy river rolls no more.

—:—:—
MCGILL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At the last regular meeting of the Society, held on the fifteenth of last month, a selection from "Hurry Burly" was read by Mr. R. T. E. McDonald. It is needless to say it was done in his characteristic humorous style.

Mr. T. Gray read a paper on "Albumenuria," giving an account of observations taken by him during the vacation, which called forth a most animated discussion. After listening to a most interesting communication on the pulse, from Mr. Mills, the president adjourned the meeting.

We are pleased to note that a growing interest is being manifested by the students in this society, and that its numbers are rapidly increasing. It is the universal testimony of college graduates, in whatever department, that they could have done better without any other part of their college training than without that obtained by attendance at the meetings of the College societies. Where a deep interest is not

taken by the student in these meetings it is due to the fact that he is not aware of the advantages afforded. It should be unnecessary to descant on the benefits accruing from the regular meetings together of young men engaged in the same studies, and encountering the same difficulties, for the purpose of expressing in a connected manner the results of their observations, and to meet their fellow students in a mental conflict.

The constitution and by-laws of this Society are being revised and amended; and when the Society, yet in its infancy, shall have completed its organization under the able presidency of Dr. Osler, not only will there be an opportunity to learn what belongs particularly to medicine, but also the privilege will be enjoyed of cultivating correct modes of conducting the business of deliberative bodies, and attention will be paid to elocution and rhetoric. We doubt not that future years will point out the men who have availed themselves of these privileges.

—:—:—
BOOK REVIEWS.

PROTESTANTISM: Its Ultimate Principle. By Rev. R. W. Dale, M.A., Birmingham. The Milton Publishing League.

CHURCHES OF CHRISTENDOM. Lectures, Critical and Historical, by the Rev. Alfred James Bray. The Milton League, 1877. Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1876, by F. W. A. Osborne, in the office of the Minister of Agriculture.

A FEW WORDS TO GIRLS AT HOME. By E. Baldwin Brown. Reprinted from "The Evangelical Magazine." London: James Clarke & Co., 13 Fleet Street.

SCOTCH PEBBLES: being Extracts from the Letters, Journals and Speeches of Norman McLeod, D.D. The Milton Publishing League.

It is to Mr. F. W. A. Osborne, we believe, that we are indebted for the package of books and pamphlets that lies before us for review. Of these the most important are: Dale's "Ultimate Principle of Protestantism," and the "Churches of Christendom," by the Rev. Alfred J. Bray. The right of private judgment, the authority of holy scripture, and justification by faith, are subjects with which the former deals in a lucid and logical style, resembling an unbroken stream of thought on which conviction calmly glides into the mind, while the critical and historical sketches—much more historical than critical, however—which Mr. Bray gives of the Churches of Christendom are characterized by an enthusiasm of thought and a rapid rush of words, which, were they to work their way into the eloquence of the age, would make many an empty church as populous as the halls in which Spurgeon or Beecher make multitudes their slaves. Mr. Bray has wandered widely in the domains of history. He has lived among the ancients till he has learned to look upon them as familiar friends. We hail this work with gladness, because it will, we hope, waken an interest in a study which is grossly neglected in Canadian universities. How grossly it is neglected is shown by the fact that it is possible for a man to graduate in a Canadian university without

having read a single page of history, except the histories of Greece and Rome. The popularity which Mr. Bray has acquired as an orator—a popularity which is largely attributable to his extensive knowledge of history—will, we trust, open the eyes of the literary leaders of the land to the prominence of the position which history ought to occupy, not only in the education of a gentleman, but in a college curriculum. "Scotch Pebbles," by Dr. Norman McLeod, and "A Few Words to Girls at Home," are works which we must mention, but which for want of space we cannot criticise.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the GAZETTE:

The December number of the GAZETTE contains a letter upon the subject of the foot-ball match which was to have been played between the second fifteens of the University and Britannia Clubs, and in this letter the writer (under the erroneous name of "Æquitas") throws upon the Secretary of the McGill Club the blame which rightfully belongs upon the Secretary of the Britannias. Certainly, whoever is to be blamed it is not the Secretary of the University Club.

The challenge from the Britannias was received about 11 o'clock on the morning of Thursday, Nov. 8th, and the Secretary of our club immediately called a meeting of the Foot-ball Committee, which was held at noon, and the challenge was referred to the second fifteen. As this fifteen is composed chiefly of freshmen, and as the first year lectures close at 11 on Thursdays, it was impossible to do anything more till the next day, when, at a meeting of the second fifteen, the challenge was accepted, and word was immediately sent to the Britannia Secretary, who alone is responsible for the failure of the match, as he should not have sent a challenge for a day upon which his men could not get away. His other excuse, that some of the team were going to Kingston, was a very poor one, as he must have known that long before he sent his challenge.

The only correct statement that I have been able to discover, after a careful perusal of the letter of "Æquitas," is that the captain of the McGill team was notified *two hours* before the time for the match. This is correct; but if "Æquitas" thinks that that was sufficient notice, I am compelled to disagree with him.

I am sorry to have occupied so much space, but, in justice to our Secretary, I think that this matter should be set right.

Yours,

FAIR PLAY.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Harvard Advocate* has two or three columns of clever scraps, but they are borrowed from exchanges.

If the editors of the *Queen's College Journal* are as long as their articles, Kingston must be inhabited by a race of Anakims. If the breadth of their minds was equal to the length of their articles they would be great writers.

The *Boston University Beacon* is our best exchange. The article on Poe and Hawthorne is original and eloquent. In this periodical wit and learning are combined. It has more literature and less gossip than the rest of our exchanges.

The *University Missourian* has a brilliant article. It was written by Henry Ward Beecher, however. The editors of this paper opened their arms to welcome the *College Chaplet*, which is edited, it seems, by a lady. We hope the opening was promptly filled, not, of course, by the *Chaplet*, but by its fair editress.

The *Yale Record* says: "Cutting is the bane of college life, and, like wine or opium, is sure in the end to wreak its vengeance on its devotee. We have known men to go out of college on it quicker than on a lightning express train." This has been well put, and if our students would only remember this, they would not be surprised at finding their names lower down in the list than they think they ought to be. The number is very good and well worth perusing, although somewhat taken up with reports.

The *Dalhousie Gazette* is greatly exercised at the frequent reference which is made to University sports in the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE. These frequent references are *monotonous* to the languid editors of the *Dalhousie Gazette*. Had they applied this epithet to their own contributions, correspondence and editorials, instead of to the *sporadic* paragraphs of the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE, its applicability would, at least, have made it true. Dalhousie editors are a languid, listless lot, too proud to care for sports, too dignified to write racy articles.

Wonders will never cease. The *Dartmouth* has at last something good! Is it an editorial? No. The editors of the *Dartmouth* are too intellectually poor to write anything rich! Is it a letter? No. They have no clever correspondents in *Dartmouth*. What is it, then? Something, of course, for which the editors are not responsible—a photograph. So proud are they of it that, lest it should by any possibility be overlooked, an editorial two lines and a half long is devoted to the task of telling us that their periodical contains a photograph. No necessity for the information, *literati* of *Dartmouth*; we are not as blind as you are.

University Gazette,

MONTREAL, 12^H JANUARY, 1878.

Editors for 1877-78.

J. N. GREENSHIELDS.

J. MCKINLEY.

F. W. SHAW

A. B. CHAFFEE, Jr.

J. C. McCORKILL,

Secretary.

B. C. MACLEAN.

H. B. SMALL.

T. A. O'CALLAGHAN.

F. WEIR,

Treasurer.

In the faculty of law a practice which, we must say, we think is rather an anomaly, has for some time past been in vogue. We refer to the method of selecting valedictorians. In both the other faculties, and in every university we have heard of, the invariable custom has been, and is, to allow the members of the graduating class to choose their own valedictorian. In the McGill faculty of law it is otherwise. The graduating classes are required to write an essay or thesis of limited length on some professional subject, and the student who has, in the estimation of the examiners, written the best thesis, is appointed valedictorian. Now, it seems to us that there are very serious objections to this system. In the first place, a man who may be a very good writer, and who may have taken pains enough with his composition to produce a fair essay, may be a very unfit person to perform the duties of a valedictorian. The qualifications for the two things are essentially and radically different and distinct. A man may be a capital writer and an execrable speaker; he may be a close student and a miserable elocutionist; he may be an energetic worker and still may mingle so little with his fellow students as to be utterly unable to fairly represent them at Convocation. We do not propose to define the functions of a valedictorian, nor do we intend to express our opinion as to what a valedictory ought to be; but we are sure that the justice of what we have said will be apparent to anyone who has heard the valedictory addresses at the faculty of law for the past few years. We make no personal allusions when we say that without exception these have shown an utter misconception of the idea of such an address, and they have generally partaken of the character of high-flown eulogiums of the profession of law, and of legal things

in general; and the object has generally been, not to express in grateful terms, the *vale*, but to prove to the world that law was supreme, and that beyond law there was no good thing.

The cause of this is to be found simply in the system of appointment, in nothing else.

Another objection to the present custom is that the result of the examinations of the essays is seldom announced more than a day or two before Convocation, and consequently some unlucky graduate is called upon to write or compose an address on a few hours' notice. We question very much whether any man can do himself or the class he is appointed to represent justice under circumstances such as these.

The case would be much ameliorated if the system which obtains in the other faculties were introduced into the Law School. The best man would in nine cases out of ten be chosen, and if he made a failure the class would be responsible for its choice, and it would not have the mortification of having perhaps the most unlikely person for such an office imposed upon it. We would suggest to the law students that a meeting be called and the matter taken into consideration. In our opinion the graduating class has the *right* to select its valedictorian, and we would like to see this right asserted, being convinced that there is no comparison whatever between the merits of the respective customs.

—:O:—

Laval University has at last, we learn, opened a branch in Montreal. The opening ceremonies, if opening ceremonies they were, were very imposing. There will, we suppose, be a great many of these imposing ceremonies connected with the course. Nor do we object to them. They break the monotony of a college course. They give *colat* to a college life. They give the weary mind a rest, and distract its attention from subjects whose continual pressure has a depressing influence upon the mind. The professorial staff of the Law Faculty has been appointed. Mr. Chapleau, we notice, fills the chair in criminal law. Judge Monk is also among the elected, of whom we forget the remainder. Laval University holds a high rank among Canadian universities, and some of her graduates are among the brightest ornaments of the Montreal Bar. It is not a spirit of hostility that we propose to cherish towards her. McGill University must feel that in Laval University she has a "foeman worthy of her steel," and Laval University will learn that if she proposes to supplant McGill University, her strength will require to be more than hercu-

lean. Let no mean rivalry or ambition mar the friendship which ought to exist between the two most distinguished educational institutions in the Province of Quebec. Let them labor side by side. Let no rivalry lie between them, save the chivalrous rivalry which prompts each to aim at outstripping the other, not in the streams of gold which the public pours into her treasury, but in the streams of intellectual lore which she pours into the lap of the public.

There is a day in a student's life which he spends in fear and trembling. It is the Rubicon which lies between him and the land to which he has long been looking, and for which he has long been longing. It is the day which divides the law student from the lawyer. It is a day of disappointment for some; it is a day of hallelujahs for others. It is a day of rapid writing. It is a day of deep thinking. It is a day of lowering brows; it is examination day. It is the tenth day of January, or it may be the tenth day of July. On that eventful day an awful solemnity overhangs the Court House, and the most careless observer can see that something unusual is going on. Students are listlessly clinging to the balcony, lingering round the locked door of the fatal First Division, or sauntering to and fro in the hall. We need not describe the sensations of those who are within. A man who is master of his subject has not a prouder moment in his life than the moments which are dancing around him while his flying fingers flash from line to line, and he dashes his ideas upon paper. He feels like a conqueror, as, with an air of triumph, he places his fat bundle of well-filled folios on the examiners' desk and takes his departure, confident that he has left behind him answers which will satisfy his examiners and establish his reputation as a scholar. One day of triumph such as this is worth a life of literary toil. How different is the mood of the man who, with contracted brows, is toiling hard to drag out of some remote corner of his mind an idea which is but an abortion when born, or a fact which was never firmly fixed in his mind, of which he is catching an occasional glimpse, like the glimpses we catch of the moon when clouds are drifting by, but which he can no more grasp than a man could hold a living eel. He labors hard, but he labors too late. Had he labored long ago, his labor when the day of trial came would not only have been less, but would have been converted into a positive pleasure. Sweet is the reward of industry, but the recompense of indolence is ruin.

Many a man imagines he knows how to read, who knows no more of what reading is than a Hottentot knows about chemistry, or an Indian elephant knows about Canada. Many a man imagines himself a model reader who, with a book before him, glances rapidly from line to line, from paragraph to paragraph, from page to page and from chapter to chapter, while his thoughts are at the last concert, or on the latest style of overcoat. His eye is on the page before him, but his mind is in Madagascar. Yet he is assiduous. He is constantly at his books. People call him industrious, and predict a high place for him in the examination lists. What is their wonder to find that when the lists are published he is plucked. The inevitable inference is, "He is not clever." The inevitable inference should have been, "He did not know how to read." Had he, when he opened his book, closed his mind against every thought save the thoughts that were born in the page he perused; had he reflected as he read, but reflected on what he was reading alone; had he, the moment his mind was approached by an irrelevant thought, given it a slap on the face and gone on his way rejoicing; had he systematized as he went along; had he done all this he would, when examinations were over, be the man whom his examiners delighted to honor. *Hoc est opus, hic labor est*, is what may well be said of this, but he who has not learned how to do this has not learned to read.

Christmas holidays are over, and we are once more at work. Christmas was not, however, as merry as many a Christmas has been. We missed the tinkling tintinabulation of the jingling sleigh-bells, which has come to be considered as an inseparable circumstance from a Canadian Christmas. New Year's day came, and it came without the sleigh-bells. Indians shooting the Lachine Rapids in a canoe; a steamboat excursion from Montreal to Longueuil; plowmen plowing, at St. Bruno; sheep grazing behind the mountain; people blinded with dust in the streets of Montreal; carriages in the streets where sleighs were wont to be—these were the peculiarities of last New Year's day, a day not destined to be soon forgotten.

NEW YEAR.

Will New Year bring me back the glee
That made my heart with Myra stir?
I care not what it brings to me,
Unless it brings me back to her.

 OBITUARY.

We regret to have to announce the death by typhoid fever of Mr. William Healy, who fell a victim to this remorseless disease before he had finished the first year of his course in the faculty of law. Of Mr. Healy his fellow students had formed a high opinion, to which, at a meeting called for the purpose of passing a vote of condolence with his friends, they gave public expression.

 COLLEGE WORLD.

—Cornell proposes a prize regatta on Cayuga Lake next summer.

—Montreal is about fifty thousand dollars the gainer by having McGill College in it.

—The award for college exhibits at the Centennial Exhibition was given to Dartmouth.

—The use of tobacco has been forbidden the urchins who attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

—Cornell and Elmira Female Colleges are to have a foot-ball match, the latter having been the challenger.

—Twenty-five thousand dollars is spent in Kingston by the students attending Queen's and Royal Colleges, Kingston.

—\$205 have already been subscribed for a base-ball case, to hold the balls won by Harvard in her different matches.

—The library of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard contains 11,300 bound volumes and 5,000 pamphlets.

—In the little village of Wolfville, N. S., \$9,000 were subscribed in an evening towards the fund for rebuilding Acadia College, destroyed by fire.

—Twenty-one freshmen were suspended in an English college because a professor could not find out who left a ten ounce tack on his chair; however, he knew who found it.

—The foot-ball match between the Carltons, of Toronto, and the Queen's College team resulted in a draw. The College expects to be victorious in the return match in the spring.

—Oxford is to challenge Columbia to a boat race for the college championship of the world; but the other American colleges, especially Cornell, say that Columbia must show themselves champions of this side the Atlantic before they cross.

 ITEMS.

—The juniors had their class supper on Thursday, December 20th.

The "Meds" alone can account for the sudden rise in the egg market.

There is some talk of organizing a snow-shoe club among the Arts and Science Medicals. A meeting will be called some time in the week.

—Why is the Czar like a poulturer at Christmas time? Because he is doing a rushing business in Turkey. N. B.—This is original (!).

—A meeting of the students is called for the 14th to consider what can be done on their part to welcome the Governor-General on his forthcoming visit to the city.

—The Sophomores had a meeting on the 9th for the purpose of electing class officers, when Harcourt J. Bull was chosen President, and Sydney Huntin Sec.-Treas. A deputation was then appointed to wait upon one of the professors with a petition "which humbly sheweth" that the class is overworked. We wish it every success.

 HONEYMOON.

Their honeymoon, if honeymoon
It could be said to be,
Was not remarkable for length,
And less for harmony.

They both were very passionate,
And neither very wise;
The consequence, as usual, was
Red noses and black eyes.

 ADIEU.

Now then, ladies, since I see
You have no time to waste with me,
You can your embroidery make,
And I will my departure take.

 LOGIC.

They say that all is fair in love and war;
I am in love; I, therefore, must be fair.

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—:O:—

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