

ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

TROS TYRIUSQUE MIHI NULLO DISCRIMINE AGATUR.

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No. 8.

Selected Poetry.

SONG BY THE MYSTIC.

BY FATHER RYAN.

walked down the valley of Silence—
down the deep voiceless valley— alone;
and I heard not the sound of a footstep
around me, save God's and my own;
and the hush of my heart was as holy
as love is where angels have flown.

long ago was I weary of voices
whose music my heart could not win;
long ago was I weary of noises
that frotted my soul with their din;
long ago was I weary of places
where I met but the human and sin.

walked through the world with the worldly;
craved what the world never gave,
and I said,—“In the world each Ideal,
that shines like a star on life's wave,
rested on the shores of the Real,
and sleeps like a dream in a grave.”

and still did I pine for the Perfect,
and still found the False with the True;
I sought 'mid the Human for Heaven,
but caught a mere glimpse of its blue;
and I wept when the clouds of the Mortal
veiled even that glimpse from my view.

and I toiled on,—heart-tired of the Human,
and I moaned 'mid the mazes of men;
all I knelt long ago at an altar,
and heard a voice call me:—since then,
I walk down the valley of Silence
that lies far beyond mortal ken.

Do you ask what I found in the valley?
Is my resting place with the Divine;
and I fell at the foot of the Holy,
and about me a voice cried,—“Be mine.”
and there rose from the depths of my spirit
a echo:—“My heart shall be thine.”

Do you ask how I live in the valley?
I weep and I dream and I pray,
and my tears are as sweet as the dew-drops
that fall on the roses of May;
and my prayer, like a perfume from censer,
ascendeth to God night and day.

In the hush of the valley of Silence
I dream all the songs that I sing,
and the music floats down the deep valley,
and each finds a word for a wing,
that to men, like the Dove of the Deluge,
the message of Peace they may bring.

So far on the deep there are billows
that never shall break on the beach;
and I have heard songs in the Silence
that never shall float into speech;
and I have had dreams in the valley
so lofty for language to reach.

and I have seen thoughts in the valley,
do you know how my spirit was stirred!
and they wear holy veils on their faces,
and their footsteps can scarcely be heard:
they pass through the valley, like virgins
in search for the touch of a word.

Do you ask me the place of the valley,—
Yo hearts that are sorrowed by care?
It lieth afar between mountains,
And God and his Angels are there;
And one is the dark mountain of Sorrow,
And one the bright mountain of Prayer.

THE GREEK CHORUS.

AN ORATION.

BY W. G. PARSONS.

WE seek in vain 'mid the annals of the
past for the origin of poetry and music.
No research has disclosed their incep-
tion,—no line of thought certainly reach-
ed back to that point at which the two
spirits, linked in a holy wedlock, announ-
ced their first born to the responsive world
of the emotions.

The indefiniteness of our information
on this point is however trivially insigni-
ficant when compared with the certainty
of our knowledge regarding the marvel-
lous sway which these grand harmonic
forces have ever exerted on the impressible
human race. Mighty in positive influ-
ence, they alternately inhale and breathe
out the spirit of the age in which they
are produced, and thus present the truest
social dial on which we recognize the
minute hand of advancement.

The thoughtful student of History can
indeed better afford to be ignorant of the
legal enactments and penal codes of that
nation whose inner life he would under-
stand, than of the warblings of its min-
strels, or the spontaneous, gushing effusions
of its men of song.

What should we know of the true
character of the primitive Celt, roaming
in wild freedom among his Highland Hills,
but for the florid, tender and expressive
strains of the memorable Ossian!—What
of the spirit of the hardy old Norsemen
sweeping the seas in triumph, were it not
for the soul-stirring productions of their
Scalds, or the enchanting rhapsodies of
their Eddas, which, penned in their God-
given runic rhyme, have floated down in
safety to us through the channels of the
years?

We must not, however, look to these
boreal regions chiefly for the highest lyric
developments, rather let us turn to the
proverbial land of love and song—the

balmy clime of the South. There amid
the purple ranges and under the genial
sky of Greece, the poetic principle was
nurtured with a watchful care. The ex-
quisite beauty of the country,—its rich
and picturesque variety of hill and dale,—
the spontaneous fertility of its soul,—the
sweetness of its temperature,—the almost
unbroken serenity of its skies, and the
smooth and glassy sea that bathed the
heated shore,—harmonized all the ruder
passions of the people and called forth the
noblest and finest feelings of the soul.
They soon became enamoured of the ele-
gant and the beautiful, and employed all
the melody and grace of their language
in ascriptions of praise to the recognized
divinities of flood and field.

The fullest notes of the matchless poetry
of Greece were struck in the morn of her
life by the Muse's most gifted son, whose
deep melodious strains rang out, not
alone for the few scattered isles of Ionian,
but for an enchanted world, as the tide
of his song sweeps down the stream of
time.

“In swelling and limitless billows.”

Yet long anterior to the production of
this unique Iliad, the choral song, after-
ward so elaborately and brilliantly devel-
oped, prevailed in that classic land. It
were as impossible to ascertain the exact
period of its origin, as to discover when
the idea of the Pan Hellenian Zeus arose—
both secrets are locked in the secure Treas-
ury of Time. It is however evident
that its rise was in connection with the
worship of the Greeks. As their altar fires
sprang heavenward consuming the propi-
tatory sacrifice offered by suppliant
votaries of Apollo the choric song of joy
arose, an ardent accompaniment to the
lightning play of flame. In the praise
accorded to Dionysus as controller of the
seasonal changes, this rudimentary dithy-
ramb was improved by its union with
measured movement as expressed in the
rhythmic dances. Subsequently the
inventive genius of Thespis, the renowned
father of Tragedy, introduced an actor who
should hold converse with the chorus
and thus relieve them from continuous
concerted actions. It was not, however,
until the golden age of Pericles arrived,
when all that was grand and imposing in

Grecian intellect and emotion had matured—when the highest flights of imaginative power had reached over the abodes of the gods and incorporated their behests in the enforcement of moral precepts,—when the divine principle of music in undulations soft and sweet had attained the very acme of its ancient excellence,—not until then, that the inimitable Grecian drama, of which the chorus was the nucleus, was wrought into its highest, noblest forms.

With our modern conventional ideas respecting the stage and its performers, we can, judging alone from the present, form no adequate conception of the mighty and beneficent influence of Greek dramatic action upon the devout expectant throng. In no other way can we arrive at a just notion of it than by leaping in thought the chasm of Time that sunders us from those choral days of splendor, and placing ourselves in reverent guise within the hallowed precincts of the vast amphitheatre. Nature here in her higher moods and most majestic aspects treads the elaborate stage. The whole city has come out to worship, assembled at early dawn in the free air of Heaven with no roof but the delightful sky of Greece. The day is sacred to the God Dionysus, and the service begins with a sacrifice to him. It is a day of joy and festivity, but of festivity tempered and subdued by the awfully imposing spectacle of revered divinities talking and acting before mortal gaze. The sacrifice ended, the curtain falls, and discloses the dwellings of the great of earth who had lived centuries before. The spirit of the ages of heroes and demigods descends and hovers o'er the anxious concourse. The persons of the Drama robed in the apparel of deities and heroes make their ingress and egress at successive intervals; while the chorus, now an applauded company of dignitaries, forming the connecting link between the illustrious actors and the awe-struck beholders, slowly enter the orchestra chanting odes of sublimest melody and loftiest conception. As the plot unfolds, some great moral struggle is discoverable in it. Some invincible will, perhaps in the breast of a delicate maiden, or in the huge form of an awe-inspiring Titan contends, with conscious rectitude, against a mightier power. The right suffers, yet still endures.—Mutual wrongs are committed,—mutual guilt incurred; but the Divine Ruler "who never sleeps nor grows old, on whom the unwearied months of the gods have no power" finally asserts his supremacy. The long pent up storm now bursts with terrific fury upon the heads of the guilty. Mortal eyes can no longer view the scene. The curtain rises,—the vision vanishes, but a mighty impression is left upon the aroused spectators. Virtue, though weak and deserted, has triumphed.—It may have descended into

sepulchral darkness—the shadow world of the departed; yet even there it meets its reward in the society of the loved of earth and in the Divine favor. The base though powerful have been vanquished. If life is spared them it is but to endure horrors worse than death. Such was the teaching of the ancient stage.

Now, throughout all the Grecian tragedies extant, it is evident that the choral odes, marvellous as is the lyric powers shown in their construction, are yet essentially connected with the action of the Drama, and not merely Horatian "purple patches" of beauty interpolated as ornaments between the acts to win the plaudits of the crowd. They represent the higher teaching of the ideal spectator reading the world's lessons aright, and pointing to an order which fulfils itself in the midst of all seeming disorder and confusion. Or, we may look upon them as the alembics of the play, in which the ore is fused, and the irradiant gems crystallize and stand forth sparkling with the light of Truth. They are to us "thought in blossom,—life in its intensest moods." Elaborated by the master spirits of antiquity with the highest artistic skill, in a language characterized by a tone at once mellow sonorous, they now remain redolent of the balm of old, as exhibitions of the choicest linguistic arrangement, and the richest melody of sound.

In what other tongue indeed can we find such beautiful resonance,—such perfect consonance of sound with sense as in the choral summary of the happiness of man contained in the *Edipus Tyrannus*!

Ἰὸ γενεαὶ βρότῳ
 Ἥος ὕμας ἰσα καὶ τὸ μῆ—
 Δέν ζῶσας ἐναριθμῶ.
 Τὶς γὰρ τίς ἀνὴρ πλοῦν
 Τὰς ὑδαίμονιας φερεῖ,
 Ἐ τὸ σούτον ὀσὴν δόκειν
 Καὶ δοξάντ' ἀποκλιναί;
 Τὸν σὺν τοῖ παραδείγμα' ἐχθὼν
 Τὸν σὺν δαίμονα, τὸν σὸν, Ὁ
 Τίανον Ὀλδιδποδὰ βρότῳ
 Οὐδὲν μακαρίζω.

In the course of the same grand tragedy the chorus deprecates the dire calamity that had befallen illustrious Thebes, and in view of the sad havoc already wrought by the will of the all-powerful Jove thus pours forth its wailing plaints:—

"Tell me O deathless voice,
 Thou child of golden hope!
 For sorrows numberless press on my soul,
 And all the host is smitten, and our thoughts
 Lack weapons to resist.
 For increase fails of fruits of goodly earth,
 And women sink in labour's wailing pangs,
 And one by one, as fit
 The swift winged birds through air,
 So, flitting to the shore of Him who dwells
 Down in the darkling West,
 Fleetest than mightiest fire
 Thou seest them passing on."

The choral odes are indeed remarkable for their manifestations of earnest feeling, and warm, yet delicate and ethereal imagination. The hearts of the Athenians, who revelled in the luxurious domain of

imagery, responded impulsively to the touching lyric symphonies that rolled in liquid flowing syllables from the enchanting orchestra. Emotion, lording it over the intellect, for the time held sovereign sway, and presented thoroughly sensitive plates for the reception of good impressions. In fact nothing ever yet had marvellous power over men, that was entirely divorced from feeling. The most potent argumentative displays, devoid of this quality, must be relegated to the category of abortive attempts. It is not by grave saws and sleepy precepts that a poet can profit either his contemporaries or posterity. It is by the examples he portrays, by the feelings he inspires, by those high and severe imaginings of more than human excellence,—those holy aspirations,—those immortal longings after all that is best and greatest in our nature. The lamp of the soul to offer burns dim in the thick atmosphere of earth. She then must needs repair to the sacred altars of poetry to replenish with light from those fires, which, like the vestal flames, should never be kindled but from Heaven. Nothing should here to soften or enervate,—nothing loose,—nothing voluptuous,—nothing but what plumes the soul and imparts it for its native skies.

The immaculate purity of thought and style running like threads of gold through these Grecian lyrics, cannot fail to vivify the heart of the classic student and dignify his musings. Breathing a tender and elevated spirit they yield us the clearest possible views of incarnated poetic concepts. A choral fragment that has survived the attrition of ages thus speaks:—

"No more, ye honey voiced, holy-singing virgins do my limbs suffice to be me. O! that I were a Cerylus which with the halcyon, sea-blue bird of spring skims the light foam of the waves with ever dauntless heart."

The utterance of moral reflections and exalted sentiments during the course of the play is also a prominently characteristic feature of the dulcet Grecian choral. Wisely thrown among the assemblage at the very moment when the emotional element has by the dialogue been wrought to its maximum, the finest shades of significance are thus perceived,—the profoundest impressions made. Its teaching at times, irresistibly carries men's thoughts on into the future in the spirit of reverence and hope,—nay, even penetrating the mists of the dark valley and disclosing the life hereafter. The importunate vocation to Pluto in behalf of *Edipus* partakes of this noteworthy faith:—

"O grant that he, the stranger,
 Wend his way, with no long agony,
 No fast of many woes, to that dark land,
 The home of all the dead,
 Still wrapped in Stygian gloom.
 For thus, though many woes unmerited
 Upon his life have come,
 God, the all just, shall raise him up again."

With such evidences presented to us, it is indisputable that the Greek chorus, in its assertion of the temper of reverence—of the spirit which submits and waits,—in its freedom from the lower passions,—its pure and lofty serenity,—its zealous maintenance of great principles,—its elegant, sonorous rhythm, and its intuitive recognition of the beauty of a self-balanced completeness, justly occupies on the glorious heights of literature a conspicuous and enviable position. And our modern tragedies, stripped of this halo that gleams so brilliantly around the ancient plays, lose, by this very severance, much of the lustro that would otherwise fall within the limits of artistic possibilities.

In allusion to the renowned writers who developed and perfected the Grecian Drama what terms are too highly laudatory? Brighter than the camp-fires that blazed on the Marathonian Plains do these inextinguishable lights glow in the arena of the histrionic art. They are indeed

"the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Down the corridors of Time."

With what majestic proportions,—what bold outlines of character—does the Genius of Grecian Tragedy rise before us!

There is Æschylus like some "bald rugged mountain" piercing with its top the o'er-arching heavens,—its sides ever garmented with clouds of storm and tempest, terrific in their very grandeur. There, too, is Sophocles of finer mould and deeper pathos, sublime in power and beauty, like some neighboring height of fairer form and more exact proportions, whose sides are graced with every changing hue of loveliness, and whose summit, bathed in streams of light from the rising and setting sun, reflects the countless glories of a genial sky. While we gaze upon the richness and tenderness of Euripides like a limitless valley stretching away beneath us with field and forest of tropical luxuriance bloom, with fruit of balm and brightness, and o'er its surface Phœbus darts are playing and the gentle breath of Æolus floating through the branches. A noble trio, revered by their fellows, they were destined to live even a higher life in the remembrance of after ages.

Soon after their time, however, sophistic speculation uncompromisingly supplanted poetic composition, and Greek culture, diverted from its wonted course, drifted away on another tide.

Whether or not the change was productive of the highest good, we assume not the province of determining; but surely if our hearts are at all in sympathy with the lofty productions of poetic art that erst were sung by the side of the murmuring sea that sweeps the Thracian shore, we must, in imagination, hear with regret

the mourning of the Muse of ancient poesy, as driven from the groves and dells of sacred Greece by the invasion of the Spirit of Philosophy, she is forced to take her last leave of the twilight shadows of earth, and wing her weary way to those ethereal realms whence she had originally descended to ennoble the soul of man and fire it with a holy zeal.

ANNIVERSARY.

The closing exercises in connection with Acadia College for the past year were held in the Baptist Church, Wolfville, on Thursday June 3rd. The day was remarkably fine, and a great number of visitors from various parts of the Province and New Brunswick were convened. At about eleven o'clock the Students, Professors and members of the Associated Alumni, clad in collegiate costume, marched in procession from "the Hill" to the Church. After prayer by Rev. I. E. Bill of St. John, the following orations were given by the members of the graduating class:—

Tendencies of Modern Civilization—A. J. Stevens, Caspereaux.

Integrity, the Soul of Commerce—Howard Bars, Wolfville.

The Use and Abuse of the Emotions!—George E. Good, Woodstock, N. B.

How far is Political Antagonism a Vice?—Benjamin Rand, Canning.

The Greek Chorus—W. G. Parsons, Kingston.

Blomidon—A Poem—Israel M. Longley, Paradise.

The music rendered by the choir at intervals during the delivery of these speeches was excellent and elicited hearty applause from the spectators and students.

Respecting the character of the orations, it is not fitting that we should make any remarks either commendatory or depreciative. Were we reporters of the same addresses delivered elsewhere, we would very readily give to the public our ideas concerning them. As, however, many of our subscribers were not present at the Anniversary exercises, one of the orations will be inserted in this issue for their pleasure, profit, or disgust, as the case may be.

The degree of Bachelor of Arts having been conferred upon the (six) members of the class, the presentation of prizes came next in order. They were distributed as follows:—

Freshman Scholarship, prize \$20—M. R. Tuttle, Wolfville.

Sophomore Scholarship, prize \$20—P. W. Campbell, St. George, N. B.

Junior Scholarship, prize \$20—Jacob Schurman, P. E. I.

Monthly Essay Prize, \$25—Jacob Schurman.

Edward Young, Gold Medal, for proficiency in the Higher Mathematics (competition in the Sophomore class only,) P. W. Campbell.

An Honor Certificate was awarded to Jacob Schurman for extra studies in the Classical, Mathematical, and Scientific departments.

The Alumni Prize for the best Essay on the subject, "Evolution, its history, teachings, and tendency," was withheld, since there was but one competitor.

Our President gave notice that it would be in order to announce the awarding of the Governor General's Medal, at the commencement of the next collegiate year.

In response to calls made upon them, the following gentlemen delivered short, yet very appropriate and forcible speeches: President Allison, of the Sackville Institute, Rev. Dr. Burns, of Fort Massey Church, Dr. Parker, Rev. A. S. Hunt, Superintendent of Education, and Mr. Falkner.

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the exercises, which, though quite long, were assuredly very interesting and pleasurable throughout.

In the evening the Concert was largely attended, nearly one hundred dollars being taken at the door. The Chairman—Prof. Welton—explained that the Graduating Class had instituted it for the purpose of aiding in the erection of the new Academy. He further laid the financial condition of the Committee plainly before the assembly, and called for increased assistance. How readily this call was responded to, may be seen in the fact that during the day and evening something over \$2000 was pledged towards the completion of the building.

The entertainment was entirely satisfactory. Miss Churchill rendered three choice readings in her best style, hearty plaudits being accorded her. "The Famine" produced a profound impression on the audience, and won for the reader the *re plus ultra* of commendation.

The music was well received, yet owing to the illness of one of the principal singers, was inferior to what it would otherwise have been.

A. Longley, Esq., M. P. P., and E. M. Chesley, Esq., A. B., gave short speeches, directing their remarks particularly to the recent under-graduates. The address of the latter gentleman was notably fluent and racy.

Mr. John L. Beckwith, Wolfville, N. S. acts as Secretary and Treasurer for the ACADIA ATHENÆUM until further notice.

Acadia Athenæum.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JUNE, 1876.

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HOWARD BARRS, '75, B. P. SHAFNER, '77.

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CONTENTS.

Poetry	57
The Greek Chorus—an Oration.....	57
Anniversary.....	59
Editorial.....	60
Anniversary Exercises Horton Academy..	60
Our Blomidon Expedition.....	61
Extract from Letter.....	63
Items.....	63
Acknowledgments.....	63

With this, our last No. of the "Athenæum" for the collegiate year, we send to our numerous friends and supporters our warmest thanks for the patronage extended us. Although we have been supported so handsomely, our outlay considerably exceeds our receipts, and we would deem it a special favor for those who have not yet remitted their fifty cents, to forward that amount immediately to Mr. John L. Beckwith, Wolfville, N. S., who has been appointed Secretary and Treasurer during the summer holidays.

ANOTHER collegiate year is past. At these times which mark the successive stages in our history, it is only natural to review briefly the past, and more especially that in connection with our own history.

The inception, the progress, the close of the present collegiate year, have successively marked important periods in the history of our Institution. Its inception saw a change in the Principalship of Horton Academy, upon the prosperity of which school the success of the College so materially depends. The unusually full attendance in connection with it seemed to add a new zest to the existing state of affairs, and fire with a renewed zeal the ardor of those already on the field.

Again, the scheme of the new Academy Building, with which the present year began, has opened a new channel of thought, of feeling, and of action to those interested in the advance of higher education in the Provinces, inasmuch as its completion will prepare the way for further advancement, will place on a broader,

surer basis the departments already existing, and in a most effective manner serve as an important means, in the hands of those having the Institutions in charge of further accomplishing their design of making them the place where all are welcomed to obtain a thoroughly sound and liberal education.

These changes have been in progress during the course of the year. The success which would attend these new departures it has thus far revealed; and today we look to the future with brighter anticipation than ever before for further advancement in our educational institutions at Wolfville.

The \$2,000 raised by voluntary subscription for the fund of the new Academy Building on the day of the anniversary of the College; the \$2,400 collected by Rev. L. E. Bill, during his late visit to Europe, for the Endowment Fund of the College, are abundant proofs of the sympathy which these institutions elicit from the hearts of the Baptists of the Provinces, as well as of our Provincials abroad. We cannot fail to be encouraged from this brief review of the year just closed, to look for still further advance, and greater prosperity in the future.

ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES, HORTON ACADEMY.

THE Academical year now just closed has been one of unparalleled success in the annals of this institution. It must be gratifying to all the friends of our College, and indeed, to every one who is in sympathy with the cause of higher education, to learn, by personal observation or through the medium of the press, of the large measure of success attendant upon the management of Horton Collegiate Academy during the past year, especially when we remember that the prosperity of our College depends in such a large measure, both as regards scholarship and number of students, upon that of the Academy.

The number of pupils present this year has been double that of any previous year, there being in all one hundred and forty-five names on the register; and the amount of work accomplished is, judging from our own intercourse with the pupils, and their intelligent responses to the searching questions propounded to them at the public examinations, unusually large, and of a thorough and eminently satisfactory character.

The year was closed by a public examination of all classes, commencing on Monday, May 31st, and lasting throughout that and the following day.

Space will not permit our noticing each class which was called up for examination. Let it suffice to mention that classes were examined in all the rudimentary branches of a common English education, also in the Latin and Greek authors required for admittance into College, Botany, &c. The examination of the class in Cicero by Principal Tufts was searching, yet the questions were answered promptly, and the translations rendered accurately. The same remarks would apply to Mr. Caldwell's class in Xenophon, and also Mr. Spurr's class in Caesar. Miss Woodworth's class in Botany is also deserving of special mention. All classes acquitted themselves well, clearly evincing that their work during the late year had not been mere memorizing of text-books, but working out principles.

The public were called together on Tuesday afternoon, to be entertained by the young ladies of the female department according to the following programme:—

Music—Miss Payzant.

Reading—Miss C. Harris.

Essay—"The Beautiful," Miss Payzant.

Music, Duet—Misses Bill and Thomas.

Reading—Miss Cann.

Essay—"Castle-building," Miss L. Harris.

Music—Miss Eaton.

Reading—Miss McLeod.

Essay—"The Ideal and the Actual," Miss Gillmore.

Music—Miss Cann.

Essay—"The Moral Studio," Miss M. Lockwood.

Music.

The exercises throughout were very creditable to the ladies, each one performing her part in a very satisfactory manner. The essays were all very well written, displaying rich thought, couched in elegant language. Those of Misses Gillmore and Harris deserve especial mention, the former for its depth of thought, and the latter for its lofty, eloquent style.

These exercises being over, Miss M. Lockwood, of Canard, having completed the prescribed course of study, was admitted to the degree of M. L. A. Principal Tufts presenting her with the diploma.

The audience then listened to addresses from Hon. Dr. Parker, Avar Longley, M. P. P., Dr. Rand, Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick. J. W. Barrs and Wm. Faulkner, Esqs., Rev. E. M. Saunders, A.M., and Rev. Dr. Sawyer. Each speaker expressed his entire satisfaction with the afternoon's entertainment, and with the examinations which preceded, and also his bright hopes for the future of this Institution. Some dwelt

upon the experience of the last half century, almost, of its existence, showing how its founders had to struggle against difficulties on every hand, and that now those difficulties are vanishing away, and that the Academy is to-day upon a firm footing, that the sympathies of the denomination cluster around it, and that before it, is a glorious future of usefulness in advancing the education of the Province, and supplying students to the College.

Before the audience was dismissed, an address was read to Principal J. F. Tufts, A. M., from the Matriculating class, which, if they are all successful, will number twenty-six. The address was read by Mr. G. B. Titus, and embodied an expression of their high appreciation of his talents, their indebtedness to him, and their cooperation with him in his endeavours to advance the Institution.

Mr. Tufts is evidently the "right man in the right place," as the marked success of the Academy this year abundantly shows; and we trust that with his able co-adjutors he may long continue his prosperous career, both as Principal of the Academy, and as Professor of History in the College, where by his superior talents and almost inexhaustible store of information, (he having for a number of years studied at Harvard making History a speciality,) he has won the confidence and esteem of every student.

The announcement was then made that the Academy was closed for the Summer vacation, and the audience which was large, composed of students, Wolfville people, and a large number of visitors, dispersed.

OUR BLOMIDON EXPEDITION.

In the following list of Minerals, Rocks, and Zoological specimens, the remarks concerning the objects collected or observed about the Cape have been given as briefly as possible, without sacrificing the scientific accuracy, which should, in a measure, always accompany such a list.

MINERALS AND ROCKS.

GYPNUM, or HYDROUS SULPHATE OF LIME.—The fibrous variety of this mineral occurs in abundance, in the red and grey (Triassic) sandstone, on the south side of the Cape, in regular, horizontal layers, which may be seen on the face of the cliff. These layers were observed only in the upper fifty feet of the sandstone, the highest being about four feet from the top, and vary in thickness from a line up to eight or nine inches. The crystallization of the above has very much the appearance of what would be presented in a vein deposit, and seems to have taken

place almost simultaneously from the upper and under sides of the matrix, or fissure.

SELENIATE.—This is the transparent or foliated variety of gypsum. It was found quite plentifully. It does not occur like the fibrous variety in layers, but in irregular masses of different sizes, embedded usually in the argillaceous portions of the sandstone. Occasionally, however, parts of these masses were found touching the upper, or under side of a layer of the fibrous variety.

QUARTZ.—Medium sized crystals of AMETHYST were found; the color is not very deep, and in some cases graduates into the ordinary white crystals.

CHALCEDONY occurred in thin veins, and also in reddish white mammillary incrustations.

AGATES of various shades, and of different degrees of beauty, were collected. One specimen is very clear and flint-like, but showing the banded structure when moistened. One small Moss Agate was obtained.

The external surface of these Agates, and also of other quartz geodes, is frequently very curiously marked with large and small pits, due to the irregularities of the interior of the cavities in the matrix of trap rock in which these geodes are found.

JASPER.—Red, green and mixed colored varieties were in abundance, especially the red jasper, which was found mixed with magnetite, and also with ordinary quartz.

ZEOLITES, or HYDROUS SILICATES.—These were neither so abundant nor so fine, as they appear to have been in other years, still fair specimens, of the following, were obtained:—

Heulandite.—Several good specimens in crystals.

Stibite.—Both in single crystals, and also in sheaf-like aggregations.

Apophyllite.—Some very good crystals.

Analcite.—Several fine specimens, some quite large; one in particular, half of which is unattached, is white in the centre, transparent near the surface of the trapezohedral faces, and measures one and three-fourths of an inch through the centre.

Acadialite.—A variety of chabazite was found, but the crystals were very small.

Magnetite in a massive condition, though occasionally showing the face of an octahedral crystal, was found filling fissures of various thicknesses, in the greenish columnar trap rock. Where the masses were large, the magnetite was next to each side, while the intervening space was filled, in most cases, with red jasper, and in others with quartz. Where the filling is quartz, the magnetite on

each side exhibits a tendency to assume regular crystalline forms.

One or two other kinds of minerals were found, but have not been determined.

SANDSTONE.—The ordinary red, and also the greenish grey, mottled, and argillaceous varieties, were collected.

The argillaceous sandstone occurs mostly towards the base of the cliff on the south side of the Cape, and at low water the surface of this rock is usually perforated with the smooth cylindrical burrows made by the shellfish *Zirphæa crispata*.

TRAP-ROCK.—Both amygdaloidal, and also the compact, greenish gray varieties, —the latter of which assumes a more or less regular columnar shape, the columns with four, five or six sides.

In addition to the foregoing representatives of the Mineral Kingdom, the following, belonging to the Animal Kingdom, were either obtained or observed by members of our party.

Owing to limited space, these names, &c., will not be arranged in tabular form. Only part of what was obtained has been determined with sufficient accuracy to be given here. The undetermined specimens include various kinds of Polyzoa or Bryozoa.

Sponges, Alcyonimus: a dead specimen of a curious helmet-shaped shell, with ridges radiating from the spiral apex, which inclines to one side—the color of shell light yellow, and about one-fourth of an inch in length.

Quite a number of specimens of a naked-gill Mollusk were found adhering to the rocks. The largest of these, measuring about three-fourths of an inch in length, purplish white on upper part, which was covered with fine tubercles. These creatures looked very much like the common land slugs.

Worms, naked bodied, and also the tubes in which other species have lived, were plentiful under stones, &c. Some of these tubes were composed of a transparent, hornlike substance; the one end of these tubes was free, from which the creature protruded itself when living, the other end being attached to a rock. Other tubes consisted of bits of the stems of seaweeds matted together, whilst still others, belonging to the genera *Spirorbis* and *Serpula*, were made of calcareous matter. Several kinds of Tunicates or Ascidiarians were gathered, among which may be specially noticed two specimens, which are supported on long stalks or pedicels from three to four inches in length,—the longest diameter of the body, which is of an oval shape, being about three-quarters of an inch. The color of these specimens when fresh, was a fine orange, but the spirits in which they were placed soon destroyed this color. They appear to belong to the genus *Boltenia*.

Actinia or Sea Anemones of two or three kinds, and specimens of a rather smooth, red-colored starfish, were also met with. The soft gelatinous Polyzoan, named *Acyonidium hispidum*, Smith, was found encrusting the stems of *Fucus nodosus*, "rock weed," which grows attached to rocks. Several small specimens of the "Oar weed," a species of *Laminaria*, were seen growing; also the broad, thin, green frond seaweed commonly called "sea-cabbage" (*Ulva latissimi*), and one representative of the red seaweed in fruit. The purple and greenish white "Coralline" moss (*Corallina officinatis*), with its curiously jointed stems, was also met with. Several specimens of the common branching sponge, a variety of *chalina oculata*, Bowerbank, and some small "crumb of bread" sponges, (*Haliclondria panicea*, Johnston,) were found on shore.

One living and several dead shells, belong to the genus *Fusus* (chrysolomus).

NASSA DRIVITTATA, Say,—one dead specimen.

BUCCINUM UNDATUM, Linnæus,—several large and small ones living.

PURPURA LAPILLUS, Linnæus.—Fine large specimens occurred in abundance; also the curious white, oval egg capsules of this species. The length of the shells is fully one inch and a quarter; the egg-capsules measure about one-third of an inch long, and one-eighth in diameter—one end is attached to a stalk which spreads out where attached to the rock, the other end having a circular opening, through which the young shells escape. This opening is filled with a mass of jelly-like substance when the capsules are fresh, at which time also the interior is divided by a membranous partition into two cells, in each of which there were found about six small embryo shells.

LUNATA HEROS, Say.—Two or three dead ones.

LITTORINA LITTORALIS, Stimpson.—Fine large specimens of this species were obtained in abundance. The largest of these are fully three-fourths of an inch in length, and half an inch wide. Several smaller shells, apparently the male of this species, were also found along with them.

CREPIDULA FORNICATA, Lamarck.—Three or four dead specimens of this curious boat-shaped shell, with its quarter-deck, or arch at one end.

ACMÆA TESTUDINALIS, Forbes and Hanley.—Great numbers of these "limpets," with their variegated, helmet-shaped shells, were found adhering to the rocks at low water.

The foregoing list includes those of the Univalves which have been determined, and the following the Bivalves:—

ANOMIA ACULEATA, Gmelin.—Several dead specimens of this thin, transparent,

irregularly formed, silverly looking shell were gathered.

PECTEN MAGELLANICUS, Lamarck.—Several valves worn smooth, and with numerous minute perforations on the exterior surface, probably caused by the burrowing sponge *Clione*, although none of the spicules characteristic of that genus could be detected when examined with the microscope.

MYTILUS EDULIS, Linnæus.—Several of these "common or edible muscles" were collected living.

MODIOLA PLOCIATULA, Lamarck.—One living specimen of this ribbed muscle.

CYCLOCAREIA BOREALIS, Conrad.—One valve.

MACOMA GRÆNLANDICA, Beck.—One dead specimen appears to be of this species.

MACTRA SOLIDISSIMA, Chemnitz.—One valve much worn.

ASTARTE UNDATA, Gould.—Two perfect specimens and several valves obtained.

ASTARTE CASTANA, Say.

ENSATELLA AMERICANA, Verrill.—Several dead specimens of this well known "razor shell."

MYA ARENARIA, Linnæus.—This is the common "long or soft shell clam." Several small specimens obtained about the Cape, but it occurs in abundance a mile south on the mud flats.

SAXICAVA RUGOSA, Linnæus.—One specimen of the variety *artica*.

ZIRPHEA CRISPATA, Linnæus.—Dead specimens of this species were obtained from their burrows in the argillaceous sandstone at low water, on the south side of the Cape.

Among the Worms or Annelids may be noted the following:—

APHRODITA ACULEATA, Linnæus.—One living specimen of this curious hairy worm, measuring about two inches in length, and half an inch in width.

LEPIDONOTUS SQUAMATUS, Leach.—A number of scaly worms were collected, which seem to be either this species, or else *Lepidonotus sublevis*, Verrill.

NEREIS PELAGICA, Linnæus.—These were equally common with the above. They are well supplied with hair-like tufts along each side of the body.

The following species of crustaceans were collected:—

CANCER ERRORATUS, Say.—This is one of the "rock crabs." It may be known by having nine notches on each side of the head, on the front margin of the shell or carapax, which is of a flat oval shape, reddish, and well marked with numerous fine dark brown spots—two dead specimens.

HYAS COARCTATA, Leach.—Three small live specimens of this species of the

"spider crab." This is a favorite morsel of the cod-fish.

BIRDS.

CANADA GOOSE (*Anser Canadensis*).—Several of these common wild geese were seen.

BLACK DUCK (*Anas boschas*).—These were more plentiful than the above.

Another smaller species of duck swam near the water edge past our camp, but being Sunday, the bird, which appeared to have a wing broken, and could have been shot, was unmolested.

GULLS—Great numbers of these were seen, both swimming past and also flying over, above the water's edge and along the upper edge of the Cape, where some of them seemed to be building their nest on the face of the cliff portion,—in all cases they kept well out of the range of gun-shot. They appeared to be representatives of the Mackerel Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

CROW.—One fine large specimen of the common Crow (*Corvus Americanus*, Audubon) was shot; also another one, apparently a different species, as it is not more than two-thirds the size, and differs somewhat in the form of the beak and feet from the first mentioned. This smaller kind may be what Coues designates as the "Fish Crow."

CANADA JAY or **MOOSE BIRD** (*Perisoreus Canadensis*, Linnæus).—One specimen shot.

ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*, Linnæus). One or two seen.

RUFFED GROUSE (*Bonassa umbellus*, Linnæus).—This bird is sometimes called a Partridge. A male and female were obtained. Three or four other birds were also observed, but were not close enough to be distinguished.

ANIMALS.

PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatus*, Linnæus).—These creatures appear to be not uncommon in the neighborhood of the Cape. The bark of quite a number of young birch trees, and also that of some large trees, had been but recently gnawed away by these animals,—one medium-sized specimen was shot.

RED TREE-SQUIRREL (*Sciurus Hudsonius*, Pallas). One of these lively little animals was seen running along the top of a fence about a mile from the Cape.

SAY'S BAT (*Vespertilio subulatus*, Say).—A small bat, apparently this species, was observed flitting or flying over near the water, round the foot of the Cape.

The foregoing list includes all the specimens which have been determined at present, and all were collected during our short stay.

We fear that some of our patrons may have cause to complain on account of not having received the May number of our paper. We would explain to any having been thus disappointed, that all the papers of that issue were put in the post office at the usual time. We have lately ascertained, however, that quite a large number have never left the office owing to the carelessness of the post master. We are much annoyed at this delay and trust that nothing similar will occur again.

We think that the subjoined extract from the letter of an *Alumnus* of Acadia addressed to our Secretary will not prove uninteresting to our readers:—

"Now that college reminiscences are crowding upon me, let me refer to another thing. Does college tradition at Acadia hand down the remembrance of "the Double Scamb" ("Scambus Duplix") as they called themselves, who graduated ten years ago."

There were ten of us, and our names were in pairs, by initials, making two fives, thus:—

Steele, Creed, Andrews, MacVane, Boggs, Shaw, Corning, Archibald, Murray, Blackadar.

The first five took the Honor Course in Classics, (the only Honor Course at that time); the second five did not. Five were studying for the ministry and five were "Seculars." Five came from the East and five from the West. Five roomed in each end of the college. Five smoked and five did not. Five wore whiskers and five did not. And it was said that five were "engaged" and five not. Othen, as is not surprising, we found five of us together, the others being absent. It is rare to find so many as three fourths of a college class, together after nine years, unless at a class meeting; but at the Convention in Portland last year, there were seven of us present, and the eighth arrived just after I left to return home. Enough of this. It is the memory of the dear old times that has led me to scribble in this strain."

Yours, with best wishes.

* *

Items.

(*Professor in class having been absent for two days*).—"I suppose you have been revelling at ease during these last few days."

(*Zealous Freshman*).—"O, no sir.—We have been boiling in suspense.

(*Professor*).—"Well, it is quite evident that you have not *wholly* evaporated.

ACADEMIC EXAMINATION.—*Young 'ady reading from Tennyson.*—

"Come to us, lovers, and make us your own."

Amorous Junior.—Arrows of Cupid! I will. That's just what I've been wanting to do.

(*Senior, jokingly, on Anniversary Eve.*)—We are to have an auction in the church to-morrow.

(*Junior*).—Ah! What is to be sold,—the audience?

Junior.—Ye Sophomores! Your presence is required in the classical room this afternoon.

Soph. (doubtfully).—Is your order official?

Junior.—To be sure, Prof. — is speaking through me.

Soph.—Ah! just as the angel of old did through your illustrious ancestor.

(Exit junior.)

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