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## McGill University Gazette.

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### Editorials.

There are many subjects our opinions upon which we are time and again irresistibly led to express, if not for the benefit of others, at least for our own peace of mind, by the very force with which they are suggested to us. It may be that the discussion which ensues, itself reminds us of its periodical character, or, stranger still, it may occasionally happen that upon the main points of the argument we are all agreed. Nevertheless, if there be a worthy end to be gained even in the very dim future, it may not be altogether useless to serve up again at intervals what has already been presented in many different ways. At present we wish to make a very brief reference to the subject of the representation of our Universities in Parliament. This is a question upon the principle of which we think most intelligent people are pretty well agreed. No one we imagine, whose opinion is worth mentioning, will deny that, theoretically, our Universities should be directly represented in Parliament. If our Universities do not include a wealthy portion of our community, they at least compose the most intelligent and the most highly educated. Most of the material interests of the country are fully represented in our Dominion Parliament. So that, on questions in every department of trade or the like, there is

always some member who can speak with a certain authority, and who is listened to as particularly representing a class with whose occupations and wants he is intimately acquainted by experience. The lumbering, the agricultural, the cotton, the sugar, the fishing and shipping interests have all their spokesmen, while the professions, including the legal, are not without their representatives. Concerning questions in any of these spheres there is no lack of information in the House, and no lack of men who are capable of giving sound advice upon them, and of expressing the feelings of those most interested; but when it comes to matters of literary, scientific or educational interest, there is no one who can speak in a similar way—there is no representative of what we make bold to call the collective culture of the country. True, in many cases our members are the very ablest men who could be chosen, and often Graduates of our Universities; but, at the same time, it would be an immense advantage to be able at any time to consult directly, through their representative, the wishes and opinions of what would be the most intelligent constituencies in the country, especially upon matters about which they would, from their education, be most competent to decide. There would then be someone inside the House to take an interest in those questions which have at present to be brought before the notice of members by deputations and petitions; there would be some one to superintend educational measures on behalf of those engaged in the important occupation of teaching. A University member would be a man to whom discussions would often be referred, and remembering the responsibility of his position, he would be very careful to give exact information, and to act and vote discreetly. It may be objected that most of those who pass through the Universities have actually the right of voting, if not at once, at least after they have become settled in professions, business or the like. We consider that what we have said above is sufficient answer to this. At present most of the Graduates of the Universities possess the right of voting, but, scattered through a hundred constituencies their influence as voters is simply *nil*. What we want is that they should be allowed to express their opinions collectively as members of a University, in addition to any fortuitous right which they may possess under other qualifications. But although we may be all agreed upon the advisability of this as far as theory goes, a great difficulty is felt to arise in the practical carrying out of the scheme. And what is the cause of this difficulty? The cause of it is the cause of many another of our difficulties, a phase of our national life, which impedes our progress in educational matters, and therefore our general advancement more perhaps than anything else. We refer of course to that vicious sectarian spirit which leads a nation of less than five million souls to establish a dozen or more Universities where three or four at the very most would more than suffice. It would seem as if every little church and sect must have its University, and every town that boasts five thousand inhabitants its school of Medicine, as if education were not above and beyond all the petty divergences of

religious opinion. This state of things is surely to be deplored, as the evident result of clannishness and bigotry. And yet, notwithstanding the obstacles which are thus presented to the carrying out of the project, we have no doubt that means could be devised for overcoming them. What is required is that sufficient interest should be aroused in the matter, and someone found in Parliament willing to fight the battle there. In the Old Country the Universities are represented, and send some of the ablest men to the House of Commons. Why the system does not prevail in the United States we do not know, but we suppose that the same obstacles from the same cause exist there as in our own country. Should we ever have the good fortune of sending a representative to Parliament, we feel sure that we shall have no difficulty in finding a man capable in every respect of filling the position.

*The Star* has written upon the recent fracas between our medicals and the Police Court officials. Whether the reporter drew on his imagination or that of the French officials for his facts, must always remain with us a deep and unfathomable mystery. At any rate, all who were present admit they were highly instructed by the report.

Subjects in abundance could be obtained by legal means, says the editor. Our Demonstrator would be delighted to have that well-posted individual call and show him the ropes he professes to know so well. We have not half our complement of material for dissecting yet, and the session is three-fourths passed.

The fact is, while we do not think that rescuing fellow-creatures from the grave is a commendable act on the part of a medical student, we do assert that to the present state of the Anatomy laws in our Province is largely due the dimensions to which the practice of body snatching has of late years reached.

It is a well-known fact that unclaimed bodies in our inebriate, pauper, and idiot asylums, in numbers sufficient to supply the dissecting rooms of Montreal, are never given up by the officials of these Public Institutions. We have not space to reply in detail to the attack, unjust though it was, made on medical students as a class, but for the benefit of those who have not heard an impartial history of the affair, we print in another column a very fair account. Sweet are the uses of adversity, and this affair, although unpleasant for the time being, clearly proved by the number of med.'s who turned out that among them there is no lack of "*esprit de corps*".

In another part of the GAZETTE will be found a communication on the subject of written examinations. The writer's logic is defective, and he regards the question, or rather questions at issue, from a confined point of view. He condemns written examinations as unsatisfactory and proposes a remedy to prevent the evils he deplures. In oral tests he finds a boon to the mentally infirm and a device which shall do away with cramming, idleness and the temptation to use unfair instruments at the critical moment of trial. To speak with authority on the relative merits of written and *viva voce* examinations requires time, manifold experience, and sound criticism on the part of the judge, but this much may be said—that the intellectually weak class of students who, in the opinion of the correspondent, feel aggrieved at the result of certain educational work, is precisely the class which would inevitably suffer from an unwritten ordeal. A man who from carelessness allows himself to appear, on paper, in a worse light than he would do, were he reasonably careful—and he is not "right" but distinctly wrong in supposing that an examiner can disregard carelessness—will naturally shrink from an oral examination, since his fault bids fair to be clearly exposed there, and unless the examiner be endowed with a remarkable share of good temper, leniency and sympathy, and have ample leisure to boot, will find his carelessness telling rapidly and irremediably against him. The man who is slow will fare no better, since he will discover the "door of memory" bolted, by nervousness, more securely than ever. A person uniformly careless and with memory not moderately tenacious, mistakes his vocation when he enters a University. Care and mental retentiveness are qualities essential to a true student, just as skill of hand and of eye are essential to a true artificer, and an examiner not only expects these, but is morally bound to discover if they exist. Again, some examinations ought

to be tests of reasoning power, others mainly of memory, since some subjects of study appeal to reason more emphatically and persistently than to mere statements of fact. *Quis custodiet custodes*, the writer virtually asks—a difficult problem to solve, but it may reasonably be granted that an examiner knows his subject better than his pupil, and that a shorter or longer experience has brought to the questioner some skill in framing sets of questions. Details which seem trivial are often asked with as much justice as those which seem all important, but with a sound examiner they are reckoned at their true worth. The suggestion in regard to the method by which a batch of answers should be estimated is not novel, and is acted on every day. "The workers are those who take the highest places in the examinations." Precisely: they have, as a body, always done so and so will continue to do. The examiner never has any difficulty in ascertaining his best men; they are known by their fruits. The men who are justly styled "half-workers" and "crammers," cause him the perplexity he often suffers. People who are careless, whose memories are bad, who read by fits and starts, and who rely on super-heated mental processes, had better be content with written examinations, in which they are, in so far as they can be, placed at their ease, are allowed some time for marshalling their scattered thoughts in respectable order and for revising their work. "Cramming" stands, we fear, as an eternal verity, and for examinations of wide and varied scope, hasty final revision seems necessary, but if this is superadded to a fair knowledge of the groundwork of the subject, the examiner knows how to deal with it if it becomes apparent. "Cramming" pure and simple, is another thing. A candidate who was being examined in Trigonometry at one of the Cambridge "locals" in England, wrote De Moivre's theorem neatly and correctly, but from his treatment of the remaining questions, showed absolute ignorance of the meaning of the Trigonometrical ratios of an angle. His destiny was evident. Oral Examinations have their merits: if severe, they are quick and decisive. None but men who have ready mental parts, together with self-confidence, and who have read equally and steadily, look forward to them with equanimity. They have their drawbacks, too. They cannot easily be made universal and must, if searching, be disastrous to the mentally infirm; moreover, in them the peculiarities of an examiner who is at the same time a specialist are liable to have sway, since he cannot readily take a just yet comprehensive view of the field of work. This he may possibly take when he composes, at his leisure, questions that are made generally public and lie open to criticism. Examinations are deemed evils, but still they are necessary. They do, as at present constituted fulfil, in the main, the ends they are intended to serve. As to the complaints of the students who think they have been unjustly dealt with—these likewise are inevitable. In some cases we may imagine them not causeless, but the man who stands second in any competition, mental or physical, can always give excellent reasons why he should have been first.

#### NOTICE.

The MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE offers a prize of ten dollars to the writer of the best story, whether in prose or verse—the length not to exceed three pages of the journal—contributed to the March issue. The competitors must be Graduates or Undergraduates of McGill College, and each is requested to place a motto on his contribution, and the same motto on the outside of a sealed envelope containing the same. The contributions must be sent in not later than February 15th.

#### Contributions.

(We are not responsible for any opinions expressed in this column.—ED.)

The Scientific Canadian takes a new name unto itself with the beginning of the new year—The Canadian Magazine of Science and the Industrial Arts. The services of Prof. Bovey, of McGill College, have been secured editorially, and the inaugural number is one of decided promise. It opens with a short article, by Prof. Murray, on Technical Education, which is both philosophical and practical. Prof. Murray maintains, as against Mr. Ruskin and those swayed by sentiment rather than by fact, that the introduction of complicated machinery does not tend to lessen skilled manual labour, but on the contrary, heightens it. The other articles are of a purely

scientific cast. "Cable Traction for Tramways and Railways" is discussed by C. F. Findlay, C. E., a well known engineer, and his contribution contains much interesting matter regarding the use of cables for street cars in the large cities of the United States. Mr. Bayzand Ellington of London, Eng., writes on Hydraulic Lifts, and states that no precaution can eliminate considerable risk. We are pleased to observe a paper by Mr. Dowling, a student of McGill College, on Division D of the Ontario and Quebec Railway, giving a detailed account of the more interesting features of that portion of the line. Considerable space is devoted to astronomy. Dr. Johnson, of McGill College, describes in a pleasing manner what is meant of the transit of Venus and why it is so important to astronomers. He also appends a few notes on the preparations made at McGill College for observing it. The remainder of the Magazine is taken up with scientific odds and ends of varying interest and value. The Canadian Magazine rejoices in a perfect wealth of illustrations reflecting, on the whole, credit on the engraver. We notice two specimens of the typographical reproduction of photographs; one illustrating the various positions of the body of a soldier taking the *pas de parade*, the other representing three successive attitudes of a horse clearing a fence. They are somewhat blurred, but this we are told is due to the defect in the original stereotype. The Canadian Patent Office Record forms an appendix to the Magazine and consists of thirty-six pages of small type and illustrations, one hundred and forty-one in number. This part of the publication cannot fail to be of great interest to practical men. The prospectus states that "the efficiency and success of this Magazine, the only one of the kind in Canada, must depend upon the hearty co-operation and support of the public." The Canadian Magazine of Science deserves generous acknowledgement from those engaged in the various branches of science, and we think we may predict a successful career for it, since it is guided by energetic and competent hands. The subscription price is \$2.50 per annum, payable in advance, and the Magazine is published monthly.

#### WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS.

At this time of the year a few remarks concerning the system of examinations pursued at this and most, if not all, other Universities on this continent, will not be deemed out of place. That written examinations are unsatisfactory, few who are conversant with them will deny. We are all familiar with the statement made by many students after an examination: "I could have answered any other questions, but those or some of those put." The distrust, with which this complaint is generally received, is most unfair to those making it; for a little consideration will show that, were there not good reason for it, it would not be heard so frequently, nor from such a large number of students. Then again, we all know how prevalent are feelings of discontent, when the results of examinations are made known to those who have undergone them. The cause of all this dissatisfaction, while examinations are being held and after they are over, is to be found in the diversity of tastes, character and habits, which exists among professors and students alike. Thus, for example, some students find it difficult to be diffuse; others, equally difficult to be concise; some are careful and painstaking; others, careless; some, quick; others, the reverse. All these traits will appear in the answers given on an examination paper. Yet the careless student will not consider that justice has been done him, if, on account of his carelessness, he is given a low standing; and he is right. The slow student, also, is frequently aggrieved, because in his estimation sufficient time has not been given to allow him to complete his paper; and he is right. The student, who is diffuse, or he who is concise, will fare better or worse, according to the disposition of the examiner; both at different times will feel sore under a consciousness of wrong done them; and they are right. Examinations are not tests of character, at least such is not their professed aim. They are generally supposed to be a means of measuring the amount of knowledge a student possesses relatively to the other members of this class. This being so, there is no reason why students, whose character differs from that of their professor, should be made to suffer for it, as they undoubtedly are, under the present system of examinations.

For, as a rule, the more thoroughly at home a student feels himself to be upon a subject, the more careless and concise will be the answers given by him in an examination. Of course there are exceptions to this, but it holds good of the majority of the students. Moreover, the nature of the questions put has much to do with the answers given by the different individuals composing a class. Some examinations, it is notorious, are only tests of memory, not of knowledge. These give an undue advantage to students gifted with quick memories. Some, again, appear to have been set for the purpose of finding out the plodders among students. In these the questions usually have reference to facts, upon which no stress is laid in the text books, and whose small importance is shown by the slight reference made to them in the lectures. Such examinations are a god-send to those who read without judgment and spend much valuable time in committing trifles to memory. But even when the examination questions are carefully and judiciously chosen, the answers should not be considered individually; but each paper should be valued as a whole, and after a careful comparison with the others. The reason of this is simple. Every one, who has passed several examinations, is familiar with that curious mental phenomenon, which, at times, seems to bolt the door of memory upon a certain fact or

series of facts, with which, at other times, he is perfectly acquainted, and which, after the occasion for its use has gone by, rushes unbidden to the brain, with a startling vividness and appearance of reality. There are few, who have never suffered from this experience, which, indeed, is not confined to students at an examination, but is known to all classes, as, for example, when we strive unavailingly to recall a well-known quotation, an author's name, or even, it may be, a familiar face. Frequently recurring as is this experience, it is never so much so as in examination-time; and this, inasmuch as it must be fully recognized by all examiners, should render them exceedingly careful how they condemn a student for an apparent want of knowledge, which may be entirely due to the treachery of his memory.

Leaving the subject of the fairness of written examinations as we have them in McGill, let us look upon them in another aspect. Let us ask whether they help to render more efficient the machinery of a College, whether they are not a drag upon it, whether they do not tend to retard the advancement of learning. Students may be roughly divided into three classes—workers, non-workers, and half-workers. The half-workers are named last, because they always occupy the lowest rank, and are very frequently plucked. The workers are those, who read steadily all through the session, attend all the lectures, and, unless of a too sanguine temperament, take the highest places in the examinations. The non-workers attend about three-fourths of the lectures and spend the rest of their time amusing themselves. When the examinations are near at hand, they apply themselves to old calendars, from which they get a pretty accurate idea of the style of questioning of some examiners, and of the questions, that will actually be put by others. Thus prepared, they make the most profitable use of the time remaining to them, and always pass their examinations creditably, frequently being at the top of the ladder. The third class is made up of the weak-minded among students, of those who come to College with the best intentions, who frequently make good resolutions and as frequently break them, who work by fits and starts. Towards examination time, these students usually are very much alarmed, but become tranquil again through the use of the magic word *crum*. But day after day slips away, and they are always promising themselves to begin cramming to-morrow, until within a day or two of the first examination, when they set desperately to work, and by their very lack of coolness, destroy the small chances they had of doing well. Now, it may be asked, what has the system of written examinations to do with all this? It creates the second class, and demoralises the third. If, instead of having a students' standing dependent upon two written examinations, it could be made to turn upon two *vis à voce* examinations, or, better still, half a dozen of such examinations, there would not be nearly so much cramming, nor so much idleness, nor such temptations to be dishonest and dishonorable, for all these would be rendered impossible. Even the workers would be benefited by the change, for it is well known that they spend much time learning over and over again what they already thoroughly know, the reason being that they must be prepared to answer every possible question, in order to be sure of taking a high place. Furthermore, were oral examinations to be substituted for written ones, there would be much less room for discontent, since the questions could be made to cover a much wider range, and by increasing the number of examiners, the injustice to students resulting from the peculiar character of any one professor would be counteracted by the different characters of the others. The only objection, we can see, to the change, is the inconvenience necessarily attendant upon the oral examination of a large number of students; but when should convenience be considered before justice? So long as the present system of examinations remains in vogue, so long will there be jealousies, heart-burnings, and distrust of professors among the students, and men will continue to pass out of college with the same or even less knowledge than they had when they came in, to recruit the ranks of briefless barristers, starving physicians, and obscure clergymen.

HUNT.

#### WHAT I KNOW ABOUT STILL-FISHING.

III.

BY INEZ.

The reader will have observed that up to this point, I have exhibited a degree of patience under my misfortunes, that would have done credit to an A. 1 Stoic. When I now found my line firmly fastened in the branch and that all my efforts to disentangle it were vain, I selected as dry a position as possible and sat calmly down to contemplate the wild enjoyment in which I had been indulging. Was it wise thus to revel in the pleasure of the moment, forgetful of reaction and rheumatism? But such is life; in the excitement incident to the pursuit of pleasure, the future is forgotten. While I was thus musing I had an intimation that the dry position which I had selected was not liable to squatter intrusion, as the proprietors (to wit a colony of gigantic ants) were in active possession, and I accordingly adjourned in some confusion, with my hand upon my heart and the ants doing a "go-as-you-please" all over me. Having with considerable difficulty succeeded in disentangling myself from the ants, I turned my attention once more to the fishing line. There it hung neatly spliced to the bough, and all my efforts to shake it off seemed only to make it cling the

tighter. Then I tried to pull the bough down, but this proved an aggravation, as it came within about two feet of my hands and do what I might I could not reach it. There was no help for it but to climb the tree, and this I had reserved as a last resource, knowing what a poor climber I had been as a boy and fully appreciating the decrease of activity that comes with advancing years. Fortunately the lowest branch of the tree was not very far up, and I managed to reach it without more serious accident than the barking of my shins. At last I came to the branch on which my line hung, and then with great caution I crept bear-like towards the goal. Before I had proceeded far the branch began to sway ominously, and had there been any spectators, I am afraid that the sight of a portly elderly gentleman, looking very pale and nervous and carefully balancing himself on a swinging bough, whilst he kept his eye fixed anxiously on a still distant hook, would have moved them rather to smiles than sympathy. However, fortunately for me I had no audience, and so could not be said to have "made an exhibition of myself," although Browne did think that expression appropriate when I recounted my adventures to him. But to proceed; I had come almost within reach of the line and was stretching out my hand towards it when a gentle zephyr stirred the trees, my position became critical, I strove in vain to maintain my equilibrium and finally toppled over, crash went the branch, then a splash, a gurgle, a few ripples on the surface of the stream and — No! all was not over, for in a few moments I struggled to my feet and came up spluttering, with my mouth full of mud and my clothing covered with weeds. I had the satisfaction, however, of finding that the hook which had been the cause of this my last misfortune was now within reach, and so having shaken myself as free of dirt as possible, I gathered up the rod and line, the can of potatoes and the bag of biscuits, and concluding that sport such as I had been indulging in was far too exciting for my nervous temperament, I started for the open, generously leaving all the fish for Browne.

Having thus unfolded an unvarnished tale concerning the aquatic portion of my experiences in still-fishing, I need not further try the patience of the reader by a recital of the woes which resulted from that experience. When I once again passed the portals of my home, it was with a feeling of infinite appreciation of the comforts of civilization, and as I laid my weary limbs between the comfortable sheets that night, I registered a vow that the most exciting weather, coupled with seductive promises of speckled beauties innumerable, should henceforth have no power to beguile me to such hardships as I had endured. It is, however, only fair that Browne's view of the question should be laid before the reader. Browne brought home about two hundred beautiful shining trout in his basket and an exhilarating sense of victory in his heart, and this fully compensated him for the difficulties he had undergone. For myself I entered on a calculation of the expenses of the trip, including besides travelling expenses, damaged clothes, loss of weight, and general discomfort, and setting these against the value of the fish, I decided that for the future I would devote my energies to my profession exclusively, and seek for speckled beauties and other finny treasures in the less dangerous recesses of the market place.

## College World.

### MCGILL.

The meetings of the Undergraduates' Literary Society have not been very well attended since Christmas. The following are the programmes:—

January 12th.—*Reading*, W. H. Turner.

*Subject for Debate*.—"Resolved, that the North-West offers greater advantages to the University Graduate than the Eastern Provinces."

*Affirmative*.—Messrs. Mackay, Kennedy and Calder. *Negative*.—Messrs. Turner, F. Pedley and Holden.

January 19th.—*Essay*.—A. A. Mackay.

*Debate*.—"Resolved, that Reciprocity with the United States would be beneficial to Canada."

*Affirmative*.—Messrs. F. Pedley and McOuat. *Negative*.—Mr. Hibbard.

The McGill College Glee Club held its first regular practice on Saturday, January 20th. Though the number of students present was not so large as it might have been, yet the practice was a great success—those present evincing gratifying enthusiasm and patience in following the instructions of the teacher, which argues well for the future of the club. The committee is to be congratulated on its wisdom in the choice of a teacher. All who are acquainted with the energy and great love for music possessed by Mr. Mills, will recognize the advantage the club has obtained by securing his services. It will be well, however, for the students to bear in mind that the actual success or failure of the club rests with them. We believe that it is a duty they owe to themselves and to each other to support by all means in their power this effort to lighten the tedium of their studies, for it is to be borne in mind that music will refresh the mind more than anything else. Besides, the Glee Club will afford an opportunity for that pleasant social intercourse, from which the students of McGill, as non-residents, are so largely debarred.

*McGill Medical Society*.—The sixth meeting of this Society was held on

Saturday evening, January 20th, Dr. Stephen, the President, in the chair. After the usual business was transacted a reading was given by Mr. Harrison, followed by a paper by Mr. Clement on "Investigations into the pork supply of Montreal." The paper gave the results of investigations made by Dr. Osler and Mr. Clement during last summer, and was of interest, as showing to what extent the pork supply of this city was contaminated. These investigations show the percentage of animals infected to be much less here than in either the United States or Germany. The percentage is so low as not to necessitate at present the making of a careful microscopic examination of all pork and beef offered for sale as is done in Germany. The sanitary effect that cooking had on these meats was also pointed out. The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Clement for his very instructive paper. During the evening the Pathologist exhibited microscopic specimens of lung tissue in health and disease. The next meeting will be held the first Saturday in February.

For the benefit of those who wish to know the true version of the late trouble between the Medicals and the Police, we print the following account:—

On Monday evening the 22nd inst., a letter was received by the McGill Medical students, from the Victoria Medical School, requesting them to attend the Police Court the following day, as a Victoria man was to be tried for body-snatching. Next day, the Primary students held a meeting and decided to go down to the Police Court in a body, to express their sympathy with their fellow-student of Victoria. They met at the Medical School, and marched down town in procession, two by two, singing College songs. On arriving at the Police Court, three hearty cheers were given for the Victoria Medical students. The procession then entered the building in a quiet and orderly manner, but were prevented from entering the Police Court by some excited officials, who declared that the students were not going to be allowed to enter, and create a disturbance. They were told that the McGill men had come down simply as spectators of the trial, and would preserve due order and decorum: but this had no effect. One official demanded to be let out, and said he would go and fetch the police. A way was made for him to pass, and as there was now no obstruction in the door, the students all filed in, and took up their positions quietly, completely filling the Court room, some of them standing on a window-sill to see better. One of their number rose and requested them to be careful to observe all due respect for the Court, and to behave in an orderly and gentlemanly manner. This caused complete silence in the Court room. A pompous official then rose, and ordered the men on the window-sill to come down. These remarks created a laugh in the room, for it was simply impossible to obey the order, as the room was so crowded. A posse of police now appeared on the scene, and began to hustle some of the men, and pull them out of the room, but they were soon ordered to keep quiet, for the Magistrate had something to say. The Magistrate then ordered the High Constable to have the Court room cleared by whatever means were possible. As soon as the students heard this order, they moved in a body to leave the room, in the same quiet and orderly manner in which they had entered it. Unfortunately however, the police thought they would hurry matters, and began to lay about promiscuously with their batons, and to seize the walking sticks and bones that some of the men carried. It is hardly to be expected that any ordinary human beings will quietly submit to being clubbed on the head, shoulders and back, without any reason. The result was that a free fight ensued in the Court room, in the course of which the High Constable drew a revolver. The students finally withdrew, leaving two of their number in the hands of the police. Bail was immediately offered for their release, but was refused. Meanwhile, a series of skirmishes took place in the open ground between the City Hall and the Police Court. After some time, the students assembled on the Champ de Mars, and formed in procession, four deep, and marched, along Craig Street up to St. James Street, along this to McGill Street down to Notre Dame Street and back towards the Police Court. On the way, they were met by their two comrades, who had been discharged. The latter were promptly "bounced" amid great applause. A flag had meanwhile been procured, and was carried in front of the procession. The students marched in front of the Court house, and were addressed from the steps of the building by one of their number. He said that they should set the police authorities a better example in keeping the peace, than the latter had given them, and that they had better disperse and go home quietly, when he was ordered down, and the students were told to move on. This they did, and marched around the open space between the City Hall and the Court house, in the middle of which a large body of police was drawn up. The procession was moving off quietly, and about two-thirds of it had turned the corner of the City Hall facing the Champ de Mars, when suddenly the police charged the remaining third, which was somewhat straggling, and scattered them effectually, and made six arrests. We understand from one of the daily papers that this was done by the orders of one of the Aldermen, and that the police were told by their sergeants to await their chief's orders. The valiant Alderman, however, led the way himself, and the police in spite of their officers, broke their ranks, and followed his example. Such a lamentable lack of discipline cannot be too severely condemned. The procession formed again on Craig Street and marched up to the McGill Medical School, where a meeting was held to consider what was to be done about the affair.



We cannot help thinking that the whole trouble arose from the officiousness of certain officials in the Court, and the brutal manner in which the police treated the students, while the latter were trying to carry out the Magistrate's orders.

The librarian has received a notice to the effect that the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, have presented the McGill University Library with copies of all the books printed up to date at the Dublin University Press. The books have not yet arrived, but we believe they will consist chiefly of mathematical works, which will form a valuable addition to the Library.

NOTICE.—In future the University Library will be open on every lawful day from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., without any intermission in the middle of the day.

## GENERAL.

John Bright will deliver his rectorial address to the students of Glasgow University, on March 12, and on the following evening address a public meeting in that city.

Mr. Sandford Fleming, C.E., has been re-elected Chancellor of Queen's University. Mr. Fleming has contributed \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund.

A recent convention of French school-boys, presided over by Victor Hugo, demanded the abolition of examinations and the marking system.

Senator Brown, of Georgia, has given to the State University at Athens, Ga., an endowment of \$50,000 for the education of poor young men.

The professors of the Medical College at Kingston find it difficult to duplicate the lectures, and it is said there is a gradual shifting towards the old practice of uniting the sexes for class work. There is murmuring, and vexatiousness is exercised the difficulty may become as great and unrelaxing as ever. Correspondence is now being conducted between the Faculty and students. The former are strengthened since the previous rebellion by the action of the governors of the other colleges. The Faculty, however, will not be disposed to violate its late arrangement, if such can be avoided.

It is very amusing to note the tone of conscious superiority which some of our friends in Upper Canada occasionally assume when speaking of themselves and their doings, evidently forgetting now and again that there is such a place as the Province of Quebec. We have noticed this especially in their comparison of the standings of the different football clubs in the Dominion. A short time ago we were rather surprised to see Toronto University Football Club spoken of as the first in Canada, recollecting as we did that for the last two years our own Club had signally defeated them. In the January issue of the *Queen's College Journal* the R.M.C. Cadets are spoken of as "one of the finest, if not the finest, of our Canadian Clubs". Now the Cadets have certainly a very fine Club, but at the same time it is by no means the finest in Canada, any more than is the Toronto University Club. Not to speak of other Clubs in this city, our own has defeated the R.M.C. Cadets on two occasions within the last two years. It is not any feeling of jealousy which leads us to point out these errors: our object is merely to remind Upper Canadians generally of one of their little faults which appears not alone in their sporting gossip, but is at times seen even in their more serious compositions, and which is in truth but an aspect of provincialism.

The Hon. F. Sloane presented the Principal of Morrin College with a cheque for \$500 last month. The money is to form a fund for another bursary.

Upon the death of the wife of the late Lewis H. Morgan, \$100,000 is to go to Rochester University for the education of women.

Wendell Phillips has recently made to the Boston Public Library a gift of 1,303 bound volumes and 4,682 pamphlets.

The general summary of the Harvard catalogue for '82-'83, shows that the University has 163 teachers, 61 officers of all sorts, and 1,428 students.

The Yale *Courant*, which has been the property of Mr. F. V. McDonald, '78, and which has cost him about \$5,000, a great deal of time, etc., has been presented to the students, "to be owned and controlled by them."

The University of Berlin has 215 professors.

Mr. Ruskin will be invited to fill again the chair of Fine Arts at Oxford University, vacated by Mr. Richmond.—E.

Maynooth College, in Ireland, is the largest ecclesiastical college in the world. It has now more than 500 students, candidates for the priest hood.—E.

We have received the following:—*The Sunbeam, The Morrin College Review, The Dalhousie Gazette, The Queen's College Journal, The Wolles-took Gazette, King's College Record, The Presbyterian College Journal, The Harvard Advocate.*

## Between the Lectures.

Professor's Song.—Bye, baby bye.

Student's Song.—*Bobby* make room for the students.

Policeman's Song.—A policeman's life is not a happy one.

What is the difference between an unlucky student and a goose? One is examined before he is plucked, and the other is plucked before it is examined.

"Did Mr. B— call in my absence, John? "No mum! but Mr. Thank Heavens did, leastways when I told him you were out, and asked what name to give you he said—kind of low like," "Missed her, thank heavens.—E.

The femur seems to have been the *bone of contention* in the late student-police fracas.

As Mr. Calverley, well-known at Cambridge for his eccentric ability, was showing some visitors over his College, they passed along the "quad." He picked up a pebble from the path, and threw it into an open window. "That's the Dean's window," and as an irate gentleman suddenly appeared, he said, with great *sang froid*, "and that's the Dean!"

Motto for the rebellious primaries: *specie recti.*

The year 1883 is like a Montreal audience at an opera, only one comes before for three after.

"Oh, you be darned," said McMeekin, as his foot went thro' the heel.

The Kingston female medical students have adopted the following dissecting-room flirtation with their brother students: Drop a scalpel—You butcherknife snap the forceps—What are you giving us? Tap the chin with the scalpel—Hit someone your size. Roll a bandage in the right hand—never roll it in the left hand. Well, hardly ever. Pronate the "sub's" right hand—Wipe off your chin. Fold the "sub's" arms. I regard you as a six-foot fool. Hold the scalpel by the teeth. I'll put a head on you. Slap over the "sub's" tubser ischium.—Look out; I carry a razor.

TO WALL-PAPERERS. On sale at our sanctum a few rules of best essay paper, embroidered with violet ink. The first verse runs as follows:

A midew fox with a sun-burned tail,  
Sang loud in a cinnamon sky;  
Whilst a guinea-pig with a short toe nail,  
Whistled a lullaby.

Effect on our associate who read it:

He broke all his teeth on the very first line,  
And he groaned as he tied up his jaw.  
I've got 'em again and had better resign  
For it's the worst I ever saw.

Some of our over worked fine men are working off some neural cobwebs by tri-weekly equestrian exercise. One of their number got all the exercise he wanted the other day and as he limped to the sidewalk to rest himself after talking so much exercise, a kind friend asked him "What he came down so quick for?" "What did I come down so quick for?" "Did you see anything up in the air for me to hold on to?"

The professor, after showing a certain experiment to the class in Physics said, "From this experiment you see, gentlemen, that my tongue is really a small elementary cell". Amid much laughter the class agreed with him, though some deprecated the professor's modesty in not proclaiming his tongue a great advanced cell.

WANTED.—An elevator to be placed in Molson's Bank, to elevate Law students to the lecture room, and more particularly to take them down in a hurry when they slope. The professors will still continue to use the staircase as they come so seldom they can bear the fatigue.

Address, "The Thirty Six Dollar Men."

A sophomore of the Science Faculty was observed one evening recently, marshalling six young ladies down Sherbrooke Street at about 8 o'clock. We would strongly advocate moderation to that youth and would also caution him to beware of the *Seniors*, who would be very indignant if they discovered their privileges were being infringed upon in such a manner.

An observant Professor in the Arts Faculty can easily recognize his students by the appearance of their gowns. At a recent lecture he noticed there was one present without this indispensable article of apparel and immediately exclaimed, "I see a stranger in the room." The youth had been accustomed to *burns* from his earliest existence, but this one was so severe that its effects were noticed in his radiant countenance. He modestly retired.

"Come into the parlor, Maud."—*Alfred Tennyson.*

We are informed that the *poet* Laureate is desirous of becoming a *Granger*.

Books which might be written and added to the College Library:—

- Conjugal Felicity*—McMeekin.  
*Freshman's Rights*—Stevens.  
*Points of Order*—Ruttan.  
*Reporting and the Press*, by a late demon of the *London Advertiser*.  
*"Petitions"*—Wood.  
*Orator's Compendiums*—Harkin.  
*Harmony and Vocal Culture*—Prof. Poole.  
*Osteology*—Hart.  
*Structure of the Fibula*—White.  
*After-dinner Speeches*—Dr. Con.  
*Poets of the Present Age*—Platt.  
*Painters and Painting*—Carter.  
*What I Know about Rowing*—Eberts.  
*Are Freshman Human Beings?*—Arthur.  
*Wolves in Sheep's Clothing*—Str.  
*Processionals by Laymen*—Mr. Merrit.

One of our classical wits when asked the other day to translate into Latin the words "naked Zulu," promptly replied, "nud(e)os nig(ger)." We consider that the gentleman runs a good chance of the Chapman medal.

Can any student of Philology explain how *Deo volente*, God willing, has come to mean practically *Die volante*, weather permitting? Will not some of our Theologs rise and explain?

A learned professor, addressing one of his class, asked if he knew what was animal magnetism. "I er—er did know, but I have forgotten," was the answer. Calmly came the scathing rejoinder, showing that even learned professors sometimes have a sense of humor: "Gentlemen, this is very unfortunate. Mr. Jones, the only man who ever knew, has forgotten what animal magnetism is!"—*Every Saturday*.

A young lady has kindly sent us the following excellent enigma which has never before appeared in print:—

#### ENIGMA.

Though young, I am a character well known to all the Queen's subjects.  
 I represent Majesty, and am more nearly allied to Royalty than Prince Albert himself.  
 However high and dignified the rank and title of any person in the Kingdom, my situation is above them all.  
 Should Queen Victoria herself require my services, she would place me at her right hand.  
 I was created by the highest peers and greatest people of the realm, wear a crown, and am continually in office; yet I never issue a command, though I frequently authorize others to do so.  
 Though of an erratic disposition, and having an unlimited and unrestricted range through the British dominions, I am continually in one or other of her Majesty's prisons, and only one person has the power of liberating me.  
 I am a great traveller, though I have neither arms nor legs; though of a peacable disposition, I have more scars on my face than the Duke of Wellington.  
 I have only one rival, and though occasionally he usurps my prerogative he is but a base substitute, and never takes my place.  
 I was born black, but now my complexion is ruddy, yet when overburdened I become blue in the face.  
 The poor can buy me, but the rich cannot sell me.  
 Under my protection the most ardent lover can successfully urge his suit, and the most timid maiden return his vows.  
 I am so much esteemed that not a day passes but I am asked for, yet there is scarcely a tongue in England that is not raised against me.  
 Though much sought after, my acquaintance generally cut me when they become known to me.  
 I grow older every day, but I shall never become grey-headed, even if I have no recourse to Macassar Oil.  
 Though I never learned the alphabet, I cannot be called unlettered.  
 My company is not very select; I am as well known to the veriest rascal as I am to goodness and virtue. I assist in carrying out and concealing the basest schemes. Mr. Smith O'Brien himself might not have been in prison but for my assistance.  
 I suppose I must be called a Liberal, both in politics and religion, as I favour Tories, Radicals, Churchmen—High and Low, and Dissenters, equally; and withal you must allow that I am a loyal subject, as I assist in supporting her Majesty's Government.  
 I must not conceal another failing; for a small sum I give my countenance to the most nefarious and wicked schemes, and closely connect myself with proceedings which, under a fair outside, conceal the most artful and base transactions.  
 Not to make myself, however, worse than I am, I must add that I am faithful in my services, and am a close adherent to those I once join and assist.  
 If those hints will not suffice, watch every one that approaches you narrowly, for there are few in a house who do not wish to have a visit from me every day.

One of our readers who was much pleased with the problems which we gave in our last issue requests that we will continue the same, as he considers that they will be of considerable benefit to many who may be preparing for the approaching examinations on Galbraith and Haughton's Manuals. We comply with his wish.

#### PROBLEMS (Continued).

2. The quantity of work a man can do varies directly as the quantity of beer he has taken that day, and inversely as the bad temper of his wife. The wife's quantity of work varies directly as her husband's good temper, and inversely as his idleness. Her bad temper varies inversely as her quantity of work, and his bad temper varies directly as his wife's and inversely as the beer. Supposing that when the man drinks 2 and 3 quarts of beer a-day alternately, he and his wife can together do a certain piece of work in 6 days, find how long they would take to do the same piece of work, if the man drank 5 quarts a-day, and find

(a) How much beer the man must drink per diem for his wife to do twice as much work as she would, if he drank a gallon a-day.

(b) What sort of temper the wife would be in at the end of the fifth day, if her husband had drunk two gallons a-day for three days and three for the other two.

4. The number of "shady" men who are passed by a Paley Examiner, varies as the cube root of the number of minutes he can devote to his breakfast. The length of time he occupies in shaving varies inversely as the temperature of the water which continually decreases in Harmonical Progression. His speed in dressing varies as the inverse square of the height of the Thermometer. Supposing that 90 per cent. of the candidates pass when the Thermometer is at 45° Fahrenheit; and the water at 75°, the Examiner being called at the usual time; find how many out of 750 men will be plucked if he be called 5 minutes late, when the mercury is at the freezing point, and the water at 45°. Investigate also the amount of risk incurred by a man who neglects his alligators;

(1) When the Examiner neglects his shaving;

(2) When he neglects his breakfast.

6. At a Christmas party a mistletoe-bough is suspended in the hall at a time  $t_1$ , and the party adjourn into the supper-room at a time  $t_2$ . There are  $m$  and  $n$  males and females respectively, of a kissing age, present; and it is observed that the duration of a kiss, including the preliminaries, varies directly as the square of the bashfulness of the gentleman, and as the cube of the bashfulness of the lady. Find the chance of a certain gentleman kissing a certain lady before supper, (1) when the comparative bashfulness and attraction of the individuals are neglected; (2) when the bashfulness of each individual is observed to decrease in  $\frac{1}{n}$  part, as the evening proceeds, and the gentleman under consideration has  $p$  plain sisters present who may be neglected.

vi. A stout gentleman in turning the corner of a lane suddenly finds himself in the presence of a bull, which immediately pursues him with a uniform velocity  $v$ . An observer at a safe distance calculates that the gentleman's speed varies inversely as the square of his distance from the bull, and as the  $n$ th inverse power of his own weight.

Supposing the gentleman's initial velocity to be  $u$ , and that the heat of the weather causes his weight to vary inversely as the cube of the time he has been running, find when the bull will catch him if the initial distance between the two be  $a$ .

#### Personals.

Mr. F. W. Thomas, B.A., '82, of the London foot-ball club, has been elected a member of the Management Committee of the Ontario Rugby Union.

H. E. Heyd, M.D., '81, has gone to Buffalo, N. Y., and commenced practice.

Kenneth A. J. McKenzie, M.D., '81, has opened an office in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Wm. McEachan (McGill '79) V.S., for the last three years one of the lecturers at the Montreal Veterinary College, has gone to Winnipeg to commence practice as a Veterinary Surgeon.

J. B. Lawford, M.D., '79, is at present at Bethlehem Hospital, London, acting as one of Dr. Savage's assistants. He was previously for some time Mr. Nettleship's assistant in the Ophthalmic Department of St. Thomas' Hospital, and at the meeting of the Ophthalmological Society of Great Britain on the 14th January, read a paper on "Central Amblyopia in Diabetes."

Ovide Wartel, '83, represented McGill at the dinner of the Undergraduates of Victoria Medical College, which was held at the Richelieu, the night of January 30th.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. J. W. Moffatt, '83 Applied Science, is un-

able to return to College owing to the effects of typhoid fever with which he was laid up before Christmas. We hope, however, that he will return next session fully restored.

Mr. R. F. Smith has been elected to the staff of the University Gazette by the Faculty of Applied Science to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Moffat's absence.

### Correspondence.

To the Editors of the MCGILL GAZETTE.

SIRS,

It has always seemed to me that the system of education pursued in our common schools is but ill-calculated to prepare boys for the struggle to make a living, which in the majority of cases begins as soon as they leave school. After boys are taught to read, write, and figure, they learn little that can be of any practical use to them in after life. Even the small amount of knowledge they do get is given in a way that renders it worse than useless to them, serving only to perplex their minds. For they are required to commit to memory a mass of facts, concerning which they never reason, and which they are not even allowed to state in their own words when reciting—a significant word—their lessons. Often have we heard teachers, intelligent and well-meaning in other respects, check a boy, when attempting to give his own idea of a subject, with the words, "Stick to your book, sir," or the more sarcastic, "You can't improve on the book." This very injudicious proceeding has the effect, which might be expected, and the boys, never having any opportunity to express themselves naturally and freely in school, and being busily engaged in play out of school, go into the world without a single clear idea, and with their minds a confused jumble of undigested facts. To all intents and purposes their real education does not begin until they have left school. Then, when it does begin, it often proves of a most pernicious kind. Why is it that there is so much rascality in the world, and that the amount increases in a direct ratio with the number of educated men? Is it not because the education given to the masses is entirely secular; because it affords no scope to their reasoning powers; because it gives men only such knowledge as adds to the temptations with which they have to struggle, without at the same time giving them additional means to overcome those temptations? The remedy for this state of things is not very difficult of attainment. Let religious as well as secular instruction be given to the pupils in our schools. Give them every opportunity to exercise their reasoning faculties. Teach them a little logic, even a little political science, if that be necessary. Give them clear and decided ideas of the difference between right and wrong, honour and dishonour, honesty and dishonesty. Do this and we shall have fewer atheists, fewer people led blindly by the arts of the demagogue, fewer interested politicians ready to sell their country's best interests for their own personal advancement, fewer faithless clerks and dishonest merchants.

Your obedient servant,

X.

### CRIBBING AND CRIBBERS.

To the Editors of the MCGILL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIRS,—

The time draws nigh, when the student's knees will begin to shake and his hand to tremble, when his sleep will be short and broken by horrid dreams. In fact the examinations will soon be upon us. In some colleges, it is not merely the lazy or idle student, who has cause to dread the examination. For him I disclaim any sympathy. But another kind of student may well feel uneasy about the result. I mean the one, who, during the term has worked hard and honestly, in order to do well in the examination and win such honours as the University may have in store for him. He will probably derive small comfort from knowing, that a large number of the students will pass their examinations by means of a free use of cribs, and that one of these may carry off the highest prize in the class. Those who crib might be divided into two classes. Those in the first class merely "crib for a pass." At first sight one would say that this is not such a very heinous offence. Who does not want to look kindly on the short-comings of little Mr. Bouncer in "Verdant Green," arrayed in his phenomenal "examination coat" and armed *cap à pi* with dates on his shirt cuffs, a proposition from Euclid under his watch-glass and cards with translations upon them travelling up and down his coat-sleeves with the rapidity of lightning? But when we look closer, can we conscientiously wink at his little eccentricities? I fear not, although Mr. Bouncer has told us that: "If I were going in for honours, Giglamps old boy, it would be no end mean and dirty in me to crib. But it was only for a pass and to please the old lady you know." In spite of this, the child is in this case very much the father of the man; and a too lenient view of this mild type of cribbing has led in many instances to a more aggravated form of the disease, that form which even Mr. Bouncer styled "no end mean and dirty." I mean cribbing for high marks. But cribbing for a pass is in itself a very grave evil and especially is this so in Medicine. Who can answer for the results of allow-

ing to a lazy, ill-prepared medical man, the care of an imperilled human life? Yet there is no doubt that in some colleges, this form of cribbing is all but openly condoned by the members of the Faculty; or in other words, the practice is tacitly encouraged. The man of the second class, he who cribs for high marks, is not perhaps so directly *dangerous to life*. He is usually well enough up in his subjects and perhaps could pass easily by fair means. But who could sympathize with such a man? Every honest student and examiner should abhor him. Who can believe that the man who cribs for honours, would hesitate to lie, steal or commit any other crime in the calendar, if it happened to serve his turn? And yet what is he but the legitimate offspring of the first-class, advanced to a higher stage of development? To judge by the amount of wholesale, barefaced cribbing which is done every year in some colleges, one would fancy it a very difficult practice to prevent. And yet its prevention is so simple and easy, any examiner being able easily to stop it instantly, *if he wants to do so* that one can only wonder that any is allowed to go on at all. What could be more absurd and unjust than to draw an arbitrary line of demarcation between talking during examination and passing written cribs? Why should those confessedly guilty of the former be exonerated; who would have been punished, if convicted of the latter? To my mind, Mr. Edite, cribbing is cribbing under whatever form it shows itself. Why hesitate a moment in expelling a man from the room, when he is caught in the very act of talking to another man? Immediate expulsion has always been the rule at Oxford, Cambridge, and in our own country at Toronto. Again, sir, can you tell me what is the actual gain in altitude of a "standard of examination" whose percentage merely has been raised, while want of proper supervision has thrown open a "royal road" to the cribber, who will assuredly hereafter prove small credit to his Alma Mater. It is no easy matter for the students to prevent the abuse of this child-like confidence in the honour of the candidates. It should, however, be an easy enough one for the Faculty. Every examination should be sufficiently supervised by any Faculty having the true welfare of their college at heart, and *all attempts* at cribbing promptly punished by suspension or expulsion. Desperate diseases we are told need desperate remedies, and one or two such salutary examples with a prospect of more to follow, if needed, would do more to raise the standard of examination than any "percentage" that ever appeared on paper.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

VENI, VIDI.

MONTREAL, January 30th, 1883.

To the Editors of the MCGILL GAZETTE.

SIRS,

I find that the manager of the Grand Theatre, Toronto, has made an arrangement with the students of that City, in which the students, by choosing some convenient evening on which they can attend in good numbers, are admitted to all parts of the house at 75 per cent of the usual prices. If they choose to sit among 'The gods,' they are permitted to enter by the private door, so as to obtain the best seats there.

Now Sir, what has been done in Toronto, can and should be done in Montreal. I do not doubt that Mr. Thomas, the enterprising manager of our Academy here, would be quite willing to follow the good example of his *confrère* in Toronto, provided that we can assure him of this new step proving a financial success. The College Glee Club ought to come forward, when possible, and aid the entertainment by songs between the Acts. The details of the matter could easily be arranged. Saturday night suggests itself to me, as a favorable one for students and rather a *romy* one at theatres. What we want is immediate action in this matter. Some of our students should take the initiative and arrange with the students at the other schools to propose it to the manager. Let us strike while the iron is hot. Any communications on the subject may be addressed to the editors of the *Gazette*.

Yours very sincerely,

FOOT-LIGHTS.

Montreal, Dec. 21st, 1882.

[We agree to a considerable extent with the remarks in this letter, and shall be glad to receive further communications upon the subject. We promise our hearty co-operation, provided means can be adopted for a proper discrimination between the plays which ought, and those which ought not, to be attended.—Eds.]

### Poetry.

#### THE PRIZE POEM.

[The prize of ten dollars for the best poem, written by a past or present student of McGill, has been awarded to Mr. W. McLennan, B.C.L., whose contribution we print herewith. "Tentavi" (Mr. W. W. White) gains the second place.

"The Night Before," by "B. H.," while in parts amusing lacks point.

The writer is led at times into weak repetition, and gives evidence of the strain on his poetical faculties. The lively rhythm canters along smoothly in some stanzas, but stumbles now and again.

"Jake" must conform to the laws of the mechanism of verse, and avoid writing in rimed metre in lines ranging from six to twelve syllables, unless his irregularities occur at regular intervals, and even then he will do well to avoid becoming a disciple of Southey in any way. "Jake" can, we think, tell a pathetic story pleasingly in rime, if he does not fall into the other extreme of chipping his thoughts into tiny pieces, as at the very beginning of the first of his "Two Studies."

"Grandescunt aucta labore" sends a brief poem in blank verse on "Wolfe at the Capture of Quebec." Its style is too ambitious and involved at the commencement, and there is a marifist decline towards the close, owing possibly to haste. Poems of thirty lines will not lend themselves easily to the most stately of all our measures, although "Grandescunt aucta labore" so far knows the genius of blank verse as to place his strong words where the emphases fall.

"The Loss of the Asia," by "Otho Scribblers" is written in couplets of four accents, and the author has divided his poem into six-lined stanzas. The narrative should be relieved with metaphor and simile, the "mens divinator" is essential. The lines of "Med Scribblers" move more smoothly, as a whole, than those of some of his rivals. The consulting editor of the MCGILL COLLEGE GAZETTE thanks Dr. Murray for his judgment in regard to the poems, which substantially agrees with his own.]

#### THE CAPTURE OF THE "ROSA" OF SEVILLE.

A.D. 1593.

(See Harris's "Navigantium atque Itinerantium Bibliotheca", London, 1705, folio 1 vol. II., p. 50.)

Eight and twenty mariners in an open boat at sea,  
Eight and twenty mariners with fearless hearts and free,  
With PETER for their Captain, make a goodly company,  
That's what we taught the Spaniards in the days of '93.

The Spanish Plate Fleet sailed that year in the early days of May,  
We all agreed we'd try and stop the Admiral on her way;  
So we stole one night from Tortuga in stealth and secrecy,  
But saw the sun for three long weeks set o'er an empty sea.

No sight of sail, our water gone—our hearts were sore dismayed,  
But Peter kept our hope alive with his tales of storm and raid;  
Till at last, on Sunday even, outside Bahama's Reef,  
We saw a sight that cheered us up in a way beyond belief—  
There was the prize for which we sighed, becalmed within the Straits,  
The stately Admiral of the Fleet. Bold Peter whispered "Mates,  
If Fortune smiles on Justice and English hearts are bold,  
To-night our eyes shall glitter in the light of Spanish gold.  
But Spanish blades are good at fence—each man must fight as ten,  
So we'll have the Surgeon cut two holes in this rotten tub, and then  
With our boat beneath the water, with our hands on the frigate's chains  
We'll try if English sailors cannot handle Spanish gains."  
Then each man primed his pistol, and felt his sword beside,  
No need of sweeps or sailing; we were drifting with the tide.  
The surgeon got his tools out—and as we were drawing near,  
We could hear the sound of singing and a fiddle ringing clear;  
There were them silly Spaniards a-singing of their glees.  
As if an English sailor never floated on them seas.  
And all the while our boat was there in the darkness like a ghost,  
And every man so deathly still you could hear him *think*, almost;  
And o'er two hours were over (to me they seemed like years),  
We were safe in the frigate's shadow and under her stern—I steers.

Our boat is sunk, our men are up high on her carven stern,  
Which their saints made easy climbing; them Spaniards never learn,  
That sailors like them may do on land, but when it comes to sea,  
They sometimes lend a helping hand to Rovers bold, like we.  
My feet were on St. Jabo's head, under the cabin light,  
Thinks I, "Your Saintship's helping on a Christian work this night."  
There, warm inside the cabin, we outside, starved and cold,  
Saw seven Papish Spaniards a-gloating o'er their gold—  
Just Peter, me and the surgeon, the others were beneath,  
A-hanging on them blessed saints, their swords between their teeth;  
Till Peter whispered to them, "We three up here will do  
For the Dons inside the cabin and you can take the crew".  
Then man by man went past us, each holding in his breath,  
And moving silently and slow, for the slightest sound meant death.  
We crouched beneath the window, each breathing hard and fast,  
And each heart thumping like a drum, till we heard a shot at last.  
Up jumps our Spanish pirates and rushes for the door,  
But before they'd cross'd the cabin, there was two upon the floor—  
One wild "Hurrah!" we gave them, and in answer to our call,  
The rest wheeled round and faced us with their backs against the wall.

Then against a long Toledo I was at it, tierce and carte,  
A-finding out the shortest way to reach a Spanish heart;  
When my two Dons were finished, I turned in time to see  
The surgeon falling on his face between the Captain and me.  
We turned him over gently, but never a word he spoke,  
'Cause a Spanish dirk was in his heart and two of his ribs was broke—  
No time for words, we laid him down, each snatched a Spanish sword,  
Rushed to the main deck with the men, and there old Peter roared,  
"Strike home, my men! No quarter!" And all the time the light  
From the lanterns hung for dancing, shone peacefully and bright;  
For a long half hour and over, the struggle never stopped,  
And one by one before our men them Spanish villains dropped;  
Till by the time the moon was up and smiling o'er the sea,  
Of living men upon that ship there was only twenty-three;  
The other five, poor fellows, lay resting from their toils,  
A-leaving five shares extra for to go to swell our spoils.

At the feasting and carousing we sat that night till late,  
A-drinking of the Spaniards' wines and eating off their plate;  
And until we got to England we never knew our gain,  
For the ship was running o'er with gold for the King of cruel Spain;  
And for it to help old England seems a better use to me,  
Than to send out Spanish pirates a-scourging of the sea.

Now here's a health to good Queen Bess, long may she live and reign,  
Here's to all English mariners, who sail the Spanish Main—  
And if e'er they grow faint-hearted, or shrink at touch of steel,  
Let them think how eight and twenty took the "Rosa" of Seville.

PHILIP HAY.

#### THE SACRIFICE.

("Cui dabit partes scelus expiandi? J. piter?")

Already had the horses of the sun  
Their downward pathway from the zenith run;  
Yet ere they plunged beneath the western waves,  
A parting ray Mount Pelion's summit laves.  
A moment there the glittering, golden light  
Flashes with fiery splendour on the sight;  
The next 'tis gone, and evening mist succeeds,  
As Phœbus from his car unyokes the steeds.  
The dying glory of the orb of day  
Lighted a lonely pilgrim on his way,  
Who, unattended, toiled up Pelion's height,  
Leading a lamb. But now the gathering night  
Grew darker; and the sky with clouds o'ercast  
Betwixen storm, as also did the blast  
Which suddenly had risen from the deep.  
And through the woody dells begins to sweep.  
Yet all unmindful of the threatening sky  
The traveller still climbed the mountain high  
For his a sacred mission to fulfil—  
To free the people from their woes and ill.  
The men of Thessaly had sinned. In war  
More captives had they ta'en than ere before.  
Their homes were decked with spoils and jewels rare;  
But from the gods had they witheld a share.  
No longer rose to heaven the smoke of lambs,  
Frankincense, or the sacrifice of rams.  
Empty, deserted stood the sacred shrines,  
And reverence for deity forsook their minds.  
So now great Zeus the thunderer, high in air,  
No longer strove, no longer wished to spare;  
But direful pestilence and death he sent,  
With visage grim, into each hero's tent.  
And walls of anguish straightaway fill the air;  
The men groan and the women rend their hair,  
For, smitten down by death on every side,  
The youngest and the fairest of them died.  
Therefore Athénus the high priest, by night  
Ascends the Mount to supplicate the king of might—  
Steep the ascent,—the summit hard to gain,  
Loud roared the wind, and fiercely fell the rain.  
Amid the dark clouds of the storm-tossed skies  
The wrathful deities the priest describes,—  
Proportioned huge, swathed in the driving cloud,  
Their glance the lightning, voice, the thunder loud.  
Here stood Athene, clad in martial might;  
There danced Mars, all eager for the fight;  
And Hermes, leader to the nether land,  
Kept ever beckoning with his gilded wand.



Athens halted, his task almost done;  
 The victim near, the sacrifice begun.  
 Upon an altar rude he placed the lamb,  
 And with both hands, stretched heavenward, he thus began:  
 "O Zeus almighty, ether-dweller, hear,  
 And to thy priest, now praying, lend thine ear,  
 True we have sinned, and that too well we know,  
 But, O, be merciful, and ease our woe!  
 For now the firstborn throughout all the land  
 Have fallen, smitten by thine angry hand.  
 So shall the blood of bulls thine altars dye,  
 And clouds of frankincense waft to the sky."  
 He ceased. And for a moment's space stood there  
 In silence; while his long and hoary hair,  
 Tossed by the wind, in rippling ringlets rolled  
 Down the broad robe of purple and of gold.  
 Then raised on high the keen-edged, glittering knife,  
 Destined to take the bleating victim's life.  
 But ere the blow, so fast descending, fell:  
 Before the atoning blood begins to well,  
 A fork of lightning flashed upon the blade.  
 And low in death both Priest and victim laid.

### List of New Books Received.

(From 1st January, 1883.)

Nautical Almanacs for 1884, '85 and '86.  
 Toronto Examination Papers.—1882.  
 Locke (John), The Works of.—3 folio volumes.  
 Barclay (Robert).—An Apology for the True Christian Divinity.  
 Cicero.—De Natura Deorum.—Translated by Austin Stickney.  
 Encyclopædia Perthensis.—Edinburgh, 1816—24 volumes.  
 British Museum.—Catalogue of Batrachia Gradimtia.  
 Library, January 22nd, 1883.

M. WILLIAMS TAYLOR,  
*Asst. Librarian.*

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