

# QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL.

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## Queen's College Journal,

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ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

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Any information concerning Graduates or Alumni, or articles on topics of current interest, thankfully received.

Matter for publication should be addressed to the Managing Editor; Business Letters to H. M. MOWAT, P.O. Drawer 482, Kingston, Ont.

**B**EFORE writing this we received our promised wood cut of Dr. Williamson. We are not, therefore, in any danger of disappointing our subscribers a second time. Our next number will be published on the 24th of January, and we will then present our readers with the portrait of Dr. Fowler, the Registrar of the Medical Faculty.

**T**ENNYSON is our authority for saying that

"In the Spring a young man's fancy  
Lightly turns to thoughts of love."

We have had no experience in deciding on the truth of this, but we have noticed a peculiarity about another period of the year, and this is the number of weddings that occur about Christmas time. We cannot say more now, but prophesy that our January issue will have in its personal column that which will weigh down the heart of every confirmed old bachelor. To all our friends who contemplate changing their state before

we again publish we offer advance congratulations.

**W**E call attention to the notice in this number referring to the election of members of the University Council. This election is more important than is generally believed by the majority of those who ought to vote, as it is through the Council that the graduates are able to exert an influence in University matters. It is to be hoped that as many graduates and alumni as possible will vote, in order that it may be a truly representative body.

Rather a more interesting election is that of Chancellor. There have been two gentlemen nominated to this position—Hon. Vice-Chancellor Blake and S. Fleming, C.B. As announced last issue, the Registrar will at once circulate voting papers among the graduates, which papers are returnable on or before the 15th March next. The voting fee—one dollar—is payable at the time the voting papers are returned. The payment of the fee in this case differs from the payment to be made in the election of members of Council; in this latter case the fee must be paid before the first day of January, 1880.

**A**T a recent meeting of the Benchers of the Law Society, a motion was introduced proposing that the passing of the examination for the degree of LL.B. at Toronto University, should lessen by a year the time required by the Law Society preparatory to being called to the Bar. We believe this proposition in its one-sided and partial application met with but little favor,

though it appeared as if, were the privilege extended to all Universities in Ontario, a similar notice thus changed might carry, provided the Benchers had power in themselves to make such a change. This legal point has not as yet—at least publicly—been decided: if they have not this power however, the Legislature will doubtless grant it, if indeed the question does not come before the Legislature itself. In any case the question is not yet settled, and we hope the friends of those Universities that have the misfortune to be public benefits without drawing perforce from the public purse, will render the non-passing of the motion as originally put a certainty. We believe the motion will again come before the Benchers on the last day of the year, when they will decide as to whether or not they have power to make the change.

WHILE the majority of our students are enjoying themselves in vacation, we would like them to think of a project often broached in the JOURNAL, but which has never been acted upon, and this is the formation of a snow-shoe club. It would be a good time to form it immediately on returning to the city and practice could at once begin. The season for foot ball has closed, and some attractive out-door exercise in which many can join is desirable, and what could be better in that way than snow-shoeing. There are, doubtless, many good snow-shoers among the students, and if they start a club, be it ever so small, we do not doubt that it will soon be very largely augmented and the sport will become exceedingly popular.

NOW that the Alma Mater elections are well over and the students are mostly at home, we can venture to speak about a matter which we hope in future to see corrected. Official positions in the Alma Ma-

ter Society have always been highly prized among the students, and rightly so, and for several weeks before the annual meeting the college halls have been filled with little groups that resemble the gatherings on street corners on the eve of a general election. There is, of course, a great deal of canvassing going on, but this canvassing in previous years was the work of the friends of the candidate. These offices are generally considered the unasked gift of the members of the Society and it has consequently been considered *infradig* for the candidate to canvass for himself. This custom is too good a one to be abolished, but that it was almost completely ignored by several candidates previous to the recent elections, is beyond a doubt. Many of the members of the A.M.S. have noticed it, and it was generally regarded with disfavor, and had not so many "fallen from grace" the feeling against it would have decided the election in some cases. We mention this, thinking that it need be only mentioned to be cured, and that when another election occurs the old custom may be respected.

FOR some reason there has been no attempt made so far this session by our Foot Ball Club to enter into any matches with other clubs. The first opportunity that was offered—that of visiting the Cobourg tournament—was not taken advantage of simply through the want of interest taken in the game by students generally. The same reason has, doubtless, prevented other matches; added to this, however, is something else which has much to do with the decline of the game here, and this is, that we do not here play the Association game. Now there is no doubt all Queen's College foot-ballers like their own game best, but what is the use of a game which is played by no other club? The clubs, with which we would most naturally play, all, or nearly

all, play the Association Rules, and during the season which we may now call closed some splendid games, largely by college clubs, have been played under these rules. Victoria, University College, Trinity and the Toronto Medical School have engaged in much pleasant inter-collegiate intercourse through the medium of these matches, while Queen's has been out in the cold from no fault but her own. Now, we recommend our foot-ball authorities to make an effort to change this state of affairs. It is worth the while of all students who are in any way lovers of the game. Matches are not the end and aim of a College foot-ball club, but they stand highest among the best means for developing it and exciting an interest in it and the game, for which it exists.

ACCORDING to tradition the time will soon be come when it will be in order for all parties to turn over a new leaf, or at least to resolve to do so. Now we suggest that the Reading Room Committee carefully consider whether it would not be well for them to take advantage of the abundant opportunity to reform presented by the Room under their care. In this case they and they only can turn over a new leaf, speaking literally, for it would be harder for an ordinary student to find the last new paper or periodical amid the mass of journalistic rubbish that is festooned round the chairs, tables and floor, than it would be for a Freshman who has been seeking the only bright and particular morning star of his youth to find a loophole of escape from the argus eyes of the *Concursus Iniquitatis*. We admit that the space is limited and that the room is used as a general rendezvous for students when not occupied with classes, but we think that a slight effort, at least ought to be made, if for no other reason than to be in practice when next session a larger room, which will not also be a loung-

ing room, is provided in the new building for the students. Come, friends, brace up and have some style about you and do not add one more to the list of practical proofs of what is being considered a recognized fact, that when you don't want a thing done appoint a committee to do it.

IT may perhaps be considered a strong sign of want of originality to wish our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, but in the fulness of our joy at having closed the first half of our journalistic experience and of having ahead the prospect of a month's freedom from literary cares, we do so with all that sincerity which so strongly distinguishes the editor. Vacation is seldom a disagreeable period—except to the Sophomore who finds himself debarred during that period from the company of his beloved Freshie—and the Christmas vacation especially is one that is looked forward to with feelings of special delight. Visions of sleigh drives, turkeys, snow shoes, cousins, skates, evening parties and various other comestibles haunt the mind, and most effectually prevent the examinations (which precede these attractive weeks, on the principle, we suppose, that the darkest hour is just before the dawn) from having their usual deleterious effect on our health, which is in one sense rather to be regretted, for our friends do not receive the impression they should as to the exhaustive efforts we are making to improve our inner man, though if they had a due appreciation of the importance of analogical reasoning, they might judge of our efforts in that direction at college by the efforts we make at home at the festive dinners. Some of our student readers however will, for different reasons, be compelled to pass their vacation at their boarding houses; to these especially we send our greeting and hope that in spite of being away from home they may have all

we wish in the shape of Christmas pleasures, though their ingenuity will have to be utilized more than that of more fortunate companions. Our peace of mind is such, and we are so much under the benevolent influences of the season, that we have determined to extend our greeting even to unpaid subscribers and unfriendly critics. Let us close by once more wishing to students and Professors, to College Council and Chancellor, to contributors and subscribers, to advertisers and printers, to all our friends and their female relatives, and last but not least to ourselves a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

IN reading over the calendar for this session, we have noticed at least one change that we regretted and that is, the change in the subject for the Prince of Wales' prize. Before the very important change in our internal economy which gave to the student the great freedom he now enjoys in the choice and order of his classes, the Prince of Wales' prize was awarded to that student who stood highest in the pass-examinations of the fourth year. It was therefore considered rightly as the highest prize obtainable in our course. When the above mentioned change occurred, it became necessary to define the subjects on which the candidate for the prize would be examined. Recognising the fact that the prize was not one to be contended for by mere specialists, but that it had always been awarded for general proficiency, the Senate fixed on four subjects for examination which were agreeable to this idea, and in spite of the introduction of gold medals—which are avowedly given to specialists—the Prince of Wales' Prize retained its previous high rank. This year, however, we notice that, though still open only to the graduating class, the subjects chosen for examination are mathematics, natural philosophy and chemistry.

No one needs to be told after reading that announcement that the Prince of Wales' prize has stepped down from its high place, and instead of being any longer the highest prize for general proficiency, is not even the highest prize in those branches, on an examination in which it depends. The honor work in mathematics and natural philosophy presupposes a thorough knowledge in the pass work in these subjects, and goes over more ground; and will any one maintain that a prize awarded on the pass work in these subjects and chemistry is higher than a gold medal awarded for the best examination in the honor work? Besides this, instead of giving all students a chance to compete, it utterly throws out that usually large class, who, excelling in classics, ethics, English literature, etc., take but a medium stand in scientific subjects. We admit the importance of scientific subjects, we also feel that full privilege should be given to students to choose special branches of study, but on the other hand we feel that all inducement (as far as prizes are concerned) to obtain a general knowledge of the subjects taught in College should not be taken away. We have medals for specialists, and up to the present session we had the Prince of Wales' prize and its accompanying honor list in the Calendar for all. We hope we will have it again and that the Prince of Wales' prize will in the future be as it has been in the past, the highest prize in the gift of the Senatus.

IN another column we give a list of the donations to the College Library, which we are glad to see the friends of Queen's have kindly remembered. Our library is now a good one, but still it can bear all accessions to it that can be given, so when we move into the new building we may have a collection of books in keeping with the chaste apartments. The value of a good library to the student cannot be over-estimated.

**REV. JAMES WILLIAMSON, LL.D.**

**Professor of Mathematics.**

IN the year 1855 on the occasion of a presentation to the subject of this sketch the Rev. John McKerras (now Professor) used this language. "the name of Professor Williamson has come to be regarded as synonymous with the honored title of Students' Friend," and the quarter of a century that has since elapsed has only intensified this feeling. In presenting his portrait therefore to Graduates and Students we know we are presenting an acceptable gift and feel that the necessary bareness of the facts we advance will be well filled out by affectionate remembrance. Born in 1806 at Edinburgh the future Vice-Principal was educated at the High School of his native city and graduated as M.A. at Edinburgh University in 1827. His chosen profession was the Ministry of the Church of Scotland, and he was Licensed in '31. After being licensed he was for a time a Missionary in Kilsyth, a mining district, subsequent to which he was assistant minister at Drumelzier. While filling this position a body of men in Canada had succeeded in establishing Queen's University and College, and in the year 1842, the second year of the College, he resigned his position in Drumelzier and came to Canada, having accepted an appointment to the important chair of Mathematics. From this period dates his connection with Queen's, a connection marked by an intense earnestness to maintain and increase its reputation and by an unvarying interest in it and all connected with it. At the time of his appointment his associates were Dr. Liddell and Prof. Campbell, but soon (about 1844, we believe) the management of the infant institution was left entirely in his hands, Drs. Liddell and Campbell having accepted calls from Scotland. To this emergency the Professor was equal and successfully watched over the interests of the College until successors to these gentlemen were appointed. In spite of the immense work that devolved on him in these years he still had time for other matters, for the year 1845 is marked by his marriage with Margaret Gilchrist, daughter of John Gilchrist, Esq., of Edinburgh, Editor of the *Evening Courant* of that city. This lady, however, died in the year

1847, leaving one son, now filling a responsible position in Edinburgh.

In the year 1852 he married his second wife, so well known to many of our Graduates as the kind seconder of the Professor's constant hospitality to the students,—Margaret, sister of the Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. In the year 1854, he in conjunction mainly with Dr. Dickson and Dr. John Stewart, successfully established a Medical Faculty in connection with Queen's and was for some time the Professor of Chemistry in this new institution. In the year 1855 he was the recipient of a valuable testimonial from former graduates, on which occasion (as mentioned above) an address was read by Rev. John McKerras, which only want of space prevents our transcribing, so well does it express the sentiments of respect and love, which then as now were the prevailing sentiments in the minds of all students and graduates towards him. Shortly after this testimonial to his personal qualities, he received one which recognized his high intellectual attainments, viz.: the degree of LL.D. from the University of Glasgow, (a degree not so lightly given then as now). As an example of the work Dr. Williamson was now doing, we may quote from a writer to the Presbyterian in 1857: "The Vice-Principal lectures on Theology in all its branches, Natural Philosophy, Logic and \*\*\* Church History." And from what he says farther on Mathematics and Chemistry may be added to this. Truly Queen's has developed.



Shortly before this date in 1855, the Doctor's efforts were successfully bent towards the erection of an observatory, which was deeded to the University in 1861 and of which he is the Director. Since then an improvement in the funds has increased the staff of Professors, though not to their full complement, and Dr. Williamson—still a splendid specimen of health—now fills only the chair to which he was first appointed, that of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. One other sad event only we have to record, the death of Mrs Williamson in 1876. And now we leave the Dr. to our readers, not because we do not desire to say more, but because we feel certain that the recollections of all must be as vivid and full as our own, and we feel that all of our readers will join with us in the wish that he may be long spared to fill his place.

**NOTICES.****University Council.**

NOTICE is hereby given that graduates and alumni, to qualify for election as Members of the Council, must pay the fee of one dollar to the Registrar before the First day of January next. The retiring members are: M. Sullivan, M.D., Kingston; W. H. Fuller, Kingston; Rev. M. McGillivray, Scarborough; Rev. D. Ross, Lancaster; R. V. Rogers, jr., Kingston; Wm. Caldwell, Lanark; and Jas. Gordon, Crumvie.

R. VASHON ROGERS, JR.,  
Registrar.

Dated, 15th Dec., A.D. 1879.

**Important.**

A GREAT number of our subscribers are in arrears for last year's JOURNAL. We suppose this is due to forgetfulness; as we have received many inquiries from subscribers as to whether they had paid or not. If any more are in doubt, we can assure them that inquiries will be answered with the greatest alacrity.

Remittances will be promptly acknowledged by the

SECRETARY-TREASURER.

P.O. Drawer 482.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

(To the Editors of the Queen's College Journal.)

DEAR SIRS,—In the last issue of the JOURNAL there appeared a second letter from B.A., expressing regret that his first letter was published, and concluding by denying the truth of the statements contained in that letter, as "he had since satisfied himself that what was told him was an exaggerated and misrepresented account of the whole affair." Permit me, Messrs. Editors, to affirm that the account given by B.A., in his first letter of the affair in the Senate room, was correct *in toto*, and moreover, that B.A. did not receive the information which made it incumbent upon him to write his second letter from a student who was invited to the Senate Chamber on that memorable occasion,

Yours respectfully,

ONE OF THOSE WHO WAS INVITED TO THE SENATE CHAMBER ON CONCURSUS INIQUITATIS.

[We publish the above at the request of the writer, but wish it understood that we desire no more communications on the subject unless over the name of the writer. As to the affair itself, we have found, on inquiry, that B.A. was quite right in saying that his first letter was "an exaggerated and misrepresented account of the whole affair." The first part of his first letter was entirely incorrect, though at the time apparently supported by circumstantial evidence, this was the most important part of the letter. As to the encounter in the Senate Room, our present correspondent had, doubtless, full means of knowing what went on. Our reporter, we are sorry to say, was not present. The oversight must be attributed to the suddenness of the call; doubtless had the Senate had a true

idea of the importance of the subject brought up, he would have been. It seems to us, however, that the matter, as now narrowed down, should have no place in print. The grievance began, and—as recent events have shown—ended in the Senate Room, and we desire that it should now end as far as we are concerned.—EDS. OF JOURNAL.]

**Anonymous Letters.**

IN the last issue of the JOURNAL there appeared a contribution on "How to dispose of Anonymous Letters." I fail to see the point in the article or any sufficient reason why letters and articles on general subjects of interest should not be written and published anonymously. Should untrue statements be made it is admitted that the publication is amenable to the law, and should legal proceedings be taken against the publisher, the same publicity would be given to the denial as to the assertion. Furthermore any publisher will allow any one to contradict anonymous correspondence as publicly as stated.

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[We think our correspondent has failed to see the purport of the article he mentions, which he will see, on reference refers to, privately sent and received anonymous letters, not those publicly printed.—EDS. JOURNAL.]

**LADIES' COLLEGES.**

NO statement is more generally accepted by every person than that under the one name or term different people may intend to convey the most diverse and contradictory ideas, and the experience of the writer leads him to say that the name which heads this article has been one of the most unfortunate in this respect. Some think Ladies' Colleges places where their "gals" go to get "manners." Others, more hopeful still, imagine their daughters can there acquire the brains which it was impossible they could inherit. Others again refrain from patronizing such institutions, being of the impression that to send a girl there is at once to deprive her of all possibility of usefulness in this world or the next, thinking that the only things to be there learned are but the most frothy accomplishments, which are not only useless in themselves, but prevent anything useful ever taking lodgment in their possessor's brains. But to enumerate all the supposed objects of Ladies' Colleges—to see life, to learn how to play the "piano," how to talk small talk, etc., would be impossible short of a folio volume of a thousand pages. Suffice it to say that only a few seem to think that the object of the institutions of which we speak is the development of the girl's intellect and moral nature, the teaching her to know herself, her powers and failings, her place and work in the great commonwealth of humanity. Now, to say this is the object, is by no means to say this is the point always reached; it is not even saying that this point is never reached, or for that matter is likely ever to be reached; in fact it sometimes seems as though the exact opposite of this were the object aimed at, and not one example only,

but several have convinced us that some of the popular notions above referred to have in the past had too much foundation in fact. This object, however, is the one desired by the founder of Ladies' Colleges, who wished to have a means of higher education than that afforded by the ordinary private or public school. The fact that it is only recently that any of our Universities (in Canada at any rate) have thrown open their doors with the accompanying advantages to women, prevents the asking of the question, why those who desired higher female education did not patronize the established colleges of the country, instead of founding separate institutions; but it does not prevent us from asking why, now that this step has been taken by our Universities, the Ladies' Colleges of Ontario should not at once close their doors and allow the task of higher female education to be undertaken by institutions far more richly endowed, with better appliances, and with staffs of learned and experienced professors? This question I will strive to answer, but first let us take a look at the work now being done in Ontario by our many excellent Ladies' Colleges. In those families where a collegiate education to boys is deemed necessary, a feeling has been steadily gaining strength that it would be but justice to allow the sisters of these boys also to have a higher education than the school furnished. These sisters, or cousins or other relations (we had no intention of saying aunts) of those connected with our Universities, form the staple of those who go to Ladies' Colleges to "finish their education," as it is sometimes only too truly stated. They enter these colleges at a time of life corresponding to that at which the ordinary youth, who has had continuous schooling, enters his college; usually, however, they are in years younger. But although thus apparently on an equal footing, a casual glance will betray the difference between them. Stronger physically, the boy has always had an object before him, at school his desire to enter the University, at College the thought that the training that he was now getting was that most necessary to his after-work in life. The girl, however, (we are, of course, speaking generally) is usually spurred on to extra work merely by a love of study. This we admit to be the best inducement, but it is something not very common at the time of life of which we are speaking. When she enters her college her knowledge of most subjects which she has studied is too superficial, and many important ones are often found to have been neglected to devote more time to others which she has preferred. The curriculum for new students and standard of entrance must therefore be and is lower than is found in the masculine departments. This, however, need not be a matter of regret, provided that real mental culture is obtained, and there is developed a love for higher knowledge for its own sake rather than for the sake of its utility. To obtain this mental culture and love of study, the general curriculum, at least in the first years, is very different from that to which male students are subjected. Three objects have to be kept in view—(1), That which is generally con-

sidered to be the sole object of our colleges, the acquiring of intellectual knowledge and the development of the mind; (2), It is necessary that while this is being done the powers of the body must not be impaired, either by destroying the health, or lessening—through continuous sedentary habits—that gracefulness which is supposed to belong more particularly to the feminine part of mankind. It would be well did all colleges recognize officially this necessary part of the education of either sex. For Ladies' Colleges it is a positive necessity, and one does not need to be a prophet to assert that were this second object lost sight of, and did our Ladies' Colleges commence to turn out the (now) fabled blue stocking, with consumptive and solemn visage, with short, straight hair, and awkward gait and stoop, the emptying of their halls would become a question of days, and soon

"Our old halls would change their sex and flaunt  
With prudes for proctors and dowagers for deans,  
And sweet girl graduates in their golden hair,"

for the feeling would then run in favor of those establishments where the natural tendencies are allowed more freedom, even though this special part of education is not looked after by any particular professorial chair; (3), The cultivation of what are specially considered graces of mind, is much more important than the cultivation of graces of body, though we fear, whatever may be the expressed sentiment, the real prevailing feeling is the other way. Both are, however, important, and both should receive the same attention.

Remembering that these three objects, whether expressed in words or not, are really in the minds of the framers of curricula. Let us look at the course of study followed in the ordinary Collegiate departments, taking for our guide that of two of our most prominent Ladies' Colleges in Ontario, the Ottawa Ladies' College and the Wesleyan College at Hamilton.

(Concluded in our next.)

### ROYAL COLLEGE.

THE students would find their work greatly simplified and would obtain clearer ideas of their studies, if some of the professors would try to classify and arrange their lectures more systematically than has hitherto been done. The great advantage of the lecture system is that the student may get a clear and concise idea of the subject under discussion. If a fair share of time is not spent by the teacher in classifying his ideas and facts, the result is to confuse rather than enlighten, and the knowledge gained consists of an accumulation of disconnected facts with which the student charges his memory, but at the close has no intelligent comprehension of the question. It is not lowering their dignity, we hope, to ask the professors to combine more of the tutorial functions with their other methods.

It is a crying shame that more interest is not taken by the professors to enlarge their Museum. Scarcely a week

passes in which an opportunity of seeing a good pathological specimen does not present itself, yet no one takes any trouble to preserve these, and no encouragement is given to the student to watch for them. If there was more attention given by the members of our Faculty to matters outside of their own immediate branch a much larger display of instructive apparatus and appliances might readily be gathered. Apparently each professor attends to his own class, and beyond that feels little interest in any other department. In the face of some pressing danger they may join together, but on all other occasions each one is an independent actor. We are sorry to sit in judgment thus but we speak plainly in the hope of having the evil remedied.

A SPLENDID opportunity of imparting practical information was lost by one of our professors last week. Had he been prepared to rise with the occasion many interesting experiments might have been made on that *pig* which walked surreptitiously into his class-room. Then the required anæsthetic would have prevented a great deal of annoying *squealing*. That professor's opportunity of "achieving greatness" has passed.

WE do not wish to prevent any one from following in our footsteps, but we give the following technical term as a mild specimen of our sufferings in the study of medicine. Take it piecemeal or it will dislocate your jaw. *Dacryocystosyringokatakleisis*. Frequently when we are accused of swearing the initiated know that we are only repeating some of our scientific names.

EVEN professors will make *bulls*. In surgery we heard of a woman who "has had a cancer so long it is not worth while to remove it now, but she is dead since." This is allowable in an Irishman, but our Junior Professor followed it up by speaking of a "healthy man who is weak, sickly or intoxicated."

ALL Medicos are not lazy, for we have a student who besides attending Primary and Final classes and assisting to sustain the College Y. M. C. A., finds time to devote to naval drawing, and is anxious to start a Literary Society at the Royal.

WHEN the student said that the third stage of Pneumonia was "Souperation," did he mean that the discharge from the lungs was like soup? If so, perhaps he was not so far wrong as some might imagine.

WHAT medicines increase the flow of bile from the liver? Polliwogs. No. no. Chologogues.

"Vis Medicatrix Naturix, vis Conservatrix," is the learned (?) heading of a bill advertising a new panacea for all ills, just discovered by a local M.D. If he had *happened* to quote the phrase properly, it would have been more appropriate than probably even he was aware. The restorative force of nature will doubtless cure many who try this remedy, while his "pad" will be present to receive the credit.

WE beg to suggest to our Freshmen that the Finals have choice of positions at all Hospital operations, and

hope they will not in the future so surround patients that more advanced students cannot see what is going on. Their turn will come.

### SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

A PARTY of forty-seven persons, amongst whom there are twelve married couples and fourteen children, sailed recently from Bergen in Norway, with the intention of colonizing the Aldabra Islands in the Indian ocean, in latitude 9° south, and longitude 46° east. The idea resulting in this undertaking was first conceived by two Norwegians who had repeatedly visited Madagascar, where they had learned that the Aldabra islands are uninhabited at present, and excellently adapted for colonization.

Edison, the well known inventor, has been making some experiments upon the action of platinum wire when heated by the electric current, the results of which he lately brought before the Saratoga meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science. His conclusions are certainly remarkable, so much so as to make one feel that he should practice a certain amount of reserve in accepting them. On heating a platinum wire, in a Bunsen's lamp flame, or by the electric current, a certain loss occurs. Thus he says that a fine wire weighing 266 mgrms., lost 3 mgrms. in twenty minutes when raised to incandescence. This, which in itself is by no means extraordinary, has generally been attributed to evaporation or volatilization of the metal at the high temperature. Edison, however, has come to a different conclusion, which is, that the metal does not evaporate, but that it is worn away by the violent impact of the molecules of air in its motion over the wire, or as he puts it, "by the washing action of the air upon the spiral" of wire. By placing the wire beneath a small covering glass, and then raising it to incandescence by the electric current, he found that not only did the wire lose weight, but that the covering glass became coated with a smoky deposit consisting of platinum, which had been transferred to it in a molecular state of division. Upon placing the wire in a tube and gradually exhausting the air, both the loss in weight and the deposit became less in amount, and when the vacuum was as complete as could be well obtained, neither loss nor deposit could be detected. But his more important observations were in regard to the behaviour of the spiral itself. To detail his experiments would require too much space, but from them he drew the conclusion that platinum (as probably other metals) in a commercial state, is something like a piece of sandstone consisting of small particles having interstices filled with air between them. When the metal is heated suddenly the air expands and the metal becomes disintegrated by the expansive force of the imprisoned air, and being thus in a very finely divided state readily melts. By gradually working the air out of the pores by means of the air-pump and heat he noticed that the wire contracted in size, became smooth, polished, hard and elastic, and capable of resisting, without melting, a temperature far above what under ordinary circumstances would have been sufficient to fuse it. Thus he says that he succeeded in obtaining a light equal to eight standard candles, from a wire, which, without previous treatment would have melted before it became hot enough to give a quantity of light equal to one such candle.

D.

ANOTHER freshman with characteristic irreverence and disregard of punctuation recently startled the Bible class by announcing that "in the days of old Moses."



**COLLEGE WORLD.**

WE must congratulate the Knox College foot-ball club on the excellent position they have again taken in the competition for the Association cup. They seem to be the heaviest team contesting; this advantage coupled with real science, has obtained them a record to be proud of. They evidently have not fallen into the mistake of putting light men on their team merely because they are more lithe and active. In practice these qualities do well enough, but when it comes to a tough match of two or three hours they very soon get played out or disabled. Stamina and tough muscle are indispensable qualities for a good team.

NOTRE Dame gives a gold medal for politeness, etc.

FIRST Student (generously): "Well, I ought to do it easier; I am twice as large as you." Second student (skeptically): "In yer mind!" First student: "Yes, that's where I meant."

CORNELL has a Professor of Anglo-Saxon.

AT King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia, each student as he graduates plants a tree in the College grounds.

JOS. JACKSON, of Montreal, has presented \$4,000 to the Presbyterian College in that city.

GYMNASTIC classes are being organized among the students at Vassar.

THE *Miscellany* suggests to the young lady who has been assigned the essay subject, "What is Beauty?" that she present her photograph.

AMHERST has recently received gifts of over \$100,000.

HARVARD and Yale have both been unusually successful at foot ball this season.

A YALE junior was found asleep in a bath tub. Cool.

THE man who can devour a dozen and a half raw oysters at one sitting is the man for eighteen ate-he.

COLUMBIA and some other Colleges have a hare and hounds club. It is good sport for winter days.

LAWN tennis clubs are also popular among the colleges.

BOSTON was probably the first city in the world where women engaged in the study of medicine, and at the Medical University there they now have a lady demonstrator in anatomy, also other ladies in the faculty.

THE University of London, Eng., is the only English university in which a period of collegiate residence is not insisted on as requisite for a degree.

CORNELL University is valued at \$692,500, with an endowment of \$1,263,999.

GYMNASIUM exercise is compulsory at Amherst, and as a consequence its students are the most able-bodied in the East.

THIS relic of antiquity was reached into the sanctum on a pole by a member of '82. "What did the cat remark on the landing of the ark?" "Is that Ararat?"—*Yale Courant*.

IF the students of the American Colleges make as much of Christmas as they did of Thanksgiving Day, we fear few will survive the repetition of such another feed.

THE following we quote from a letter of Dio Lewis:—"Within half a century no young man addicted to the use of tobacco has graduated at the head of his class at Harvard College, though five out of six of the students have used it. The chances, you see, were five in six that a smoker or chewer would graduate at the head of his class, if tobacco does no harm. But during half a century not one victim of tobacco was able to come out ahead."

THE Trinity Meds. dined together at the Rossin House, Toronto, on Friday, Dec. 5th.

THE Freshman class at Columbia is the youngest on record. The oldest member of the class is said to be 21.

UNIVERSITY of Colorado began the year with 100 students.

**PERSONAL.**

W. F. COLEMAN, M.D., '63, who has for some time been engaged in practice in St. John's, N.B., recently made a flying visit to his friends in Ontario. He looks well and speaks highly of his chosen abode. He has our best wishes for continued success.

HUGH CAMERON, B.A., '76, has taken formal possession of his charge at Glencoe, being formally inducted and ordained on Tuesday, the 20th of December. The events connected with the ceremony were of a highly pleasing and paying character. We can inform his congregation that our knowledge of their new pastor warrants us in congratulating them.

WE have had occasion before this session to comment on the lateness of our congratulations to newly spliced alumni. We hope we are not too late in offering our wishes for prosperity and happiness and other things in this life, to D. H. Dowsley, M.D., '75, who, during last summer took to himself for a wife the daughter of James Agnew, of this city.

WE are not quite so far behindhand in shaking hands (in our minds) with John M. Machar, B.A., '57, who about three weeks ago was united in marriage to a daughter of the Rev. J. A. Allen, of Alwington. We tender the happy couple our heartiest congratulations, to add to the number which they have received from their many friends in the city.

JAS McARTHUR, B.A., '75, M.D., '78, is at present practising medicine at London, Ont. We believe, however, he has been contemplating another engagement, and if Rumor speaks true he ———, but we will not say more, for Dame Rumor is not always a reliable reporter.

JOHN HERALD, B.A., '76, has been elected President of the Dundas Foot Ball Club. We are glad he has not forgotten his prowess in that sport in which he excelled at Queen's.

MATTHEW MCKAY, B.A., '79, has given up his position as teacher at Wolfe Island to accept the headmastership of the High School at Norwood.

THOMAS H. DUMBLE, M.D., '77, has given up his practice at Demorestville, having bought the practice of Dr. Atkinson, of Gananoque. We hope his new move will be a successful one.

M. M. ELMORE, of the class of '79, is engaged on the editorial staff of the *Picayune*, New Orleans, of which, we doubt not, he is an essential member. Since he is an experienced hand we consider his words in praise of our sheet all the more highly. We wish him all success in his journalistic career.

F. A. DRUMMOND, B.A., '77, Secretary-Treasurer of the JOURNAL for '76-'77, who recently went to Manitoba, on the Pacific Railway Survey, has returned from the vigorous duty on the prairie and entered the office of the Assistant Receiver General, Winnipeg.

### DE NOBIS NOBILIBUS.

MOST of the students were delighted to hear that another sitting of the Concurus had been held. The fines went into the Ladies' Aid Society in Collinsby. They have offered to furnish a room whenever it is needed. We venture to say those Freshmen will not flirt again this session.

MERRY Christmas!

LAST JOURNAL for '79.

VACATION is just the time to get subscribers.

THE following from an Ex. we pin on the wall and say "them's our sentiments": "The man who writes us long anonymous articles has the heart-felt thanks of the small boy to whom we give the contents of our waste paper basket."

IN rummaging our note book the other day we accidentally came across the following, written, without our knowledge, by some fellow or other, who likely took our book for an autograph album. In reply we may say that his little poetic appeal is useless, since, if he owes us nothing we haven't time to waste thinking about him, and if he is a "subscriber in arrears" his reminder is altogether unnecessary:

"Think of me in the hour of leisure,  
Think of me in the hour of care,  
Think of me in the hour of pleasure,  
Spare me a thought in the hour of prayer."

THE Zoology class expect to finish the study of invertebrata before Christmas.

OUR postmaster, John Cormack, Esq., has taken up his quondam position behind the library wicket, and there is consequently the usual "rushing" and "shunting" at 11:05. Who will be the first to be inserted in the hole? Take care '83.

No, strange to say we haven't got any John Smiths in our college; but our tallest man, who is six feet three, and our shortest man, who is five feet, and our fattest, are all Smiths. We have also a few more who are intermediate between these. Such is life. It has been said that Adam (not Adam Smith, the "wealth of nations" man) finding the task of naming mankind too tedious, stopped classifying soon after he had begun and called the rest Smith. This is of course *mythical*. But we do know that Adam's direct descendant, Tubal Cain, really was a Smith. This gentleman must have been the first of the genus, and his antiquity is the only way of accounting for the appalling number of the species.

ALMA MATER SOCIETY.—The first meeting of the A.M.S., under the regime of the new officers was held last Saturday night. The new President, D. McIntyre, B.A., was in the chair, and conducted the duties of the position in his usual courteous yet decided manner. Mr. O'Reilly presided at the Secretary's table. The chief business was the election to the office of critic. This election was not held at the annual meeting on account of the resignation of the two candidates who were nominated. Mr. James Ross was unanimously elected amid hearty applause. It was resolved to hold a public debate immediately after the holidays; Mr. A. B. McCallum and the Secretary were appointed leaders, and the subject chosen was that "Canada would be better independent of British rule."

It was also resolved that the admission be free. Mr. Denike, of the Royal College, then took the chair, and the question was debated as to whether the "Thirteen American states had sufficient grounds for reselling." The Society then adjourned. We were glad to see a number of medical students present. They will find it of great advantage to attend the meetings, as they will never have so good a chance again of becoming proficient in public speaking.

A PROF. who is greatly annoyed by students that pretend to be absent on account of sickness, gently reminded the miscreants the other day that perhaps some of them would be "sicker" in the spring.

SOME persons are in mourning for the Concurus. But they shouldn't be. It is not dead, but sleeping.

WE regret to say that Messrs. Wm. Hay and W. S. Smith met with an accident when driving home from Pittsburg on Sabbath evening. The horse wanted to see how the buggy would go in the ditch. He saw it go to pieces, and was, we suppose, quite satisfied. The occupants survived and are recovering their usual health.

SOME of the Freshies have purchased cheap jack-knives and are going for the desks lively. They are much more pleased to have their names there than at the head of the list at the finals.

MEETING of Concurus at Collinsby last week. It was very successful.

THE Professor of Metaphysics intends introducing this year a new mode of determining the relative standing of students in his classes. He considers it almost impossible to assign the exact number of marks to each answer, and so proposes to withhold the results of the monthly written examination till the end of the session. Then in order to test the real knowledge of the subject he will give in the last examination questions on matter not discussed in his lectures. This will be a test of originality and the Professor will be enabled to give the relative standing without giving a definite number of marks. This is surely a capital idea, and will enable him to give mere cramming machines their proper place, and also to reward "honest work."

A FRESHIE wants to know if lambkin means a little lamb, does pumpkin mean a little pump?

A GALLANT senior, on meeting two of his lady friends on Princess street, after doing the polite with his Glengarry, cheerfully accosted them with the salutation: "Haloo! How do you do?"

THE Glee Club favored the people of Collinsby and vicinity with a musical and literary entertainment on Tuesday, 9th, which was listened to by a very appreciative audience. The Club sang very well but they showed a lack of practice which we hope may not occur again. It is to be congratulated on its possession of not a few excellent voices. The Club also sang a couple of songs at an entertainment on Tuesday, the 16th, which was well received.

CLASSES closed on the 18th inst., and will reopen on the 6th of January, 1880.

MR. ROSS is to be congratulated on his appointment to the office of critic of the A.M.S., which he is capable of raising to the important position it should occupy in the Society.

It is a well established fact that the Sophs. of Queen's have always distinguished themselves by the amount of cheek which they display. The following incident, however, proves to be a remarkable exception to this rule:

An eminent Soph, who is assiduously cultivating a scarcely perceptible decoration on his upper lip, resides at a well known boarding house on ——— street. A certain young lady, who was in the habit of frequenting the said boarding house, became exceedingly anxious to form the Soph's acquaintance. When the occasion selected for the introduction arrived the Soph's faint heart failed him, and but for the timely assistance of his chums the opportunity would have been lost and the lady obliged to depart with sad and blighted hopes. By a sort of "push persuasion" he was induced to approach the fair one's presence. After the customary formalities of the introduction, the excited Soph, put the astounding question, "Now are you satisfied?" As soon as released he hastily repaired to his sanctum, there to ponder over the condition in which he had been placed, and with manifest ungratefulness for the favor bestowed on him, he is, we believe, resolved to wreak vengeance on his benefactors.

Our University is getting every year more known and noted. This year she can boast of having the extraordinary phenomenon of two students combined in one without the individuality and personality of the said students being destroyed. We would invoke the Professor of Moral Philosophy to explain how this phenomenon can be consistent with the laws of self-identity and casualty, were it not that the explanation is itself so ridiculously simple that we are afraid we should awake the risibility of the genial professor. It is the usual custom prevalent in the Police Courts, viz., sporting two different names.

It is quite fashionable for a divinity student now-a-days to read "Puck" while the Professor is lecturing on 1st Corinthians. What is the Divinity Hall coming to. Nothing can be further removed from the christian tone of 1st Corinthians than the literature of Puck.

The Divinity Hall is generally surrounded by an air of solemnity which is in every respect commendable. But the usual solemnity and serenity was the other day ruthlessly broken by the Professor of Church History propounding the following question to an impetuous member of the second year. Prof.: Mr., what word in scripture symbolically expresses love? Ans.—Earthquakes, tempests and eclipses. We are told the earthquake in the hall after this was something terrible, and that the genial Professor himself added to the shock.

QUEEN'S can boast at the present time of having the most absent-minded Freshman that ever passed through its halls. The other night, while his mind was thoroughly engrossed in Greek and Latin, he was overcome by Morpheus, and calmly laid down to rest without remembering the fact that his boots were still on his feet. When he awoke in the morning he began to search for his usual feet protectors, and we are told that not until his land-lady came to the rescue did he succeed in identifying his lost treasure. Poor fellow! we fear insanity!

A Young lady the other day asked us if a peacock feather in a student's hat was a badge worn in honor of the Court of Iniquity or a memento of its demise, or is it rather an emblem of vanity. We confess we were unable to answer such speculative questions. *Who can?*

OWING to circumstances over which, of course, we had no control, we have been obliged to appoint and style one of our staff "Fighting Editor," whose name we do not think it just to make known. Suffice it to say, however, that he is now in active training, and will soon be ready to accept all orders in his line. This is a new departure in the officers of the JOURNAL, and one for which rare qualifications are needed, but we have found it necessary to establish this office that peace may reign within our

walls and prosperity within our borders—metaphorically speaking—for we have no borders to our paper. The following parties may live in dread of him: Students who get huffed since we do not make mention of them—those who get huffed because we do. Parties who can read the JOURNAL through in an hour. Students who don't patronize our advertisers. In fact all and sundry who do or say anything detrimental to our interests, and especially non-paying subscribers.

THE Freshmen are complaining that one of their number passes them on the street without speaking. If we did not think that this could be attributed to short-sightedness, we would suggest that they deposit him in the stream running by the remains of the cowsheds.

It is deep in the history of ancient philosophy. They get a lecture of five pages a day. Some say that to write so fast just after they have been vaccinated is an utter impossibility.

SOCRATES' method is at a discount in the N. P. Class.

ONE of our compositors set up "Irishman" for "Freshman." We did not know whether to change the reading or not as the terms are so similar in meaning in a certain sense.

LOGIC CLASS.—All nuisances are punishable by law. To keep a noisy dog is a nuisance, therefore to keep a noisy dog is punishable by law. Where is the fallacy in this syllogism? Soph.—In the matter, it is the noisy dog that's the nuisance; not the keeping of him. Prof. (Laughing)—Ah! Mr. S., I am afraid you are more subtle than sound.

A STUDENT the other day called those at the tail the *candle* vertebrae. He meant caudal.

IN their mad desire to read the JOURNAL the students make an awful stampede into the Reading Room when our Secretary appears with the bundle of papers under his arm. They skip everything till they get to De Nobis Nobilibus, then they sink into a state of abstraction, from which it is impossible to rouse them till they have finished the column.

IS THE word "darn" profane? This was disputed in the hall the other day. A student settled the question by quoting from standard lexicographers that the word meant simply "in a great degree" or "very."

THE Freshie's hearts thumped when the different Prof's. wished them a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

THE photographs from which the wood cuts of Drs. Dickson and Williamson were engraved, we procured from the firm of Sheldon & Davis, of Kingston, who are the popular photographers among the students.

A STUDENT a week ago could easily be found, but now  
"They have all dispersed and gone,  
Far away, far away."

### EXCHANGES.

THE *College Record* very considerably informs Freshmen that the Principal of a University should only be addressed as Mr. ——. Now, Freshies, remember that you, at least, can never accuse the *Record* of want of originality. The *Record* also informs us in another remarkably instructive Ed., that when a lady and gentleman meet they should not both take the inside. Quite right, *Record*, we are of the same opinion ourselves; but before we leave you we must say that while compelled to admit

the perfect purity of Wheaton College with regard to intemperance, secret societies, sectarianism, orthography and attractive literary talent, we cannot regard the tone of its Chit Chat with indifference. We are advocates of ce-education, but will abandon our position if its effect at Wheaton, as shown by the *Record's* Chit Chat, is one that must everywhere necessarily follow. But now ta-ta—your sideachas have put us in sufficiently good humor to read the *Niagara Index*. That good humor we almost repented of when we found that it had persuaded us to read the long articles which the *Index* calls Eds. The public school system can now be considered as dead, for has not the *Index*-man sat upon it? He has fully convinced us that the mastering of the three R's, is all the education that the children of the poorer classes ought to get, and that higher education should be open only to the wealthy. To be sure, being published in the States, and being a college paper, the *Index* can only give utterance to such a sentiment by nearly drowning it in words. This, however, seems quite easy to it, and one would imagine it had long practice in the art. Barring these long Eds, the *Index* is an attractive paper, and one which we welcome to our table. The *Hamilton Literary Monthly* for November contains two or three good literary articles. Had the first article been knocked into pie just before the *Lit.* was published, the number would have been a better one, however, to be sure it makes one appreciate the others all the more. In the Editor's Table the article on journalism in Hamilton College is well written and interesting. We can join in congratulating it on its "Alumniana," in which department it truly says it surpasses all its contemporaries. The *Student Life* is a new face which we hope will become pleasantly familiar. Our Managing Editor, we see, has written on its cover, "pass in a crowd." Well, we are glad he thinks so, for in spite of our connection with him we have still a small modicum of respect left for his opinion. We must add, however, that we think the crowd would have to be a pretty large one. We would like to review some more of our exchanges, notably, the *Pennsylvania College Monthly*, which we have read for the first time with a great deal of pleasure; but the hands of our five hundred dollar chronometer informs us that the hour is approaching when, according to a very high authority, the churchyards set very good examples to mortals. And now a feeling of quietness and sweet peace steals over us, a peace which not even the concert of *Acta Columbiana* can disturb, when we think that we are exchanging courtesies with our fellow ink-slingers for the last time this term, and that for a month, the voice of the printer with its never ceasing cry for copy will be silenced. Already in prospective we are enjoying our (of course) well earned vacation, and our Christmas festivities are undisturbed by the narcotic influences of the *Knox Student*, and uninfluenced by the sporting tendencies of the *Columbia Spectator*. But thinking of these things has caused sleep to take a temporary departure, and therefore it is a welcome sight as we lay down our pen, to see before us the *Cornell Era*, for well we know that be we so sleepless as to defy all the powers of morphine, let us but read two pages of the *Era*, and, lo! its most characteristic quality is transferred to our minds, they become a blank, and we sleep the sleep of youth and innocence.

### CLIPPINGS.

The prattling child in frolic cries,  
 "Oh Mother, give me some molasses."  
 The chilly student fondly sighs,  
 "For my part, give me summer lasses."

### AN IDLE.

He sat on the shore as the sun went down,  
 Went down in the depths of the wide, wide west.

Perhaps he was searching for coral reefs;  
 Perhaps he was trying to keep him cool;  
 Perhaps the breezes from over the sea,  
 As they toyed with his tresses, said, "come to me!"  
 The field of conjecture is wide, you see;  
 Perhaps he was only a fool,  
 Or a clam. —*Yale Record*.

Who was the first curve pitcher? Noah; for he pitched the arc (*k*) within and without. The game was called on account of the rain, and the players went inside.—*Reveille*.

### SERENADE.

I fain would woo thee, love, to-night,  
 (By Jove! how these mosquitoes bite.)  
 When sleeping nature by the moon's pale ray  
 (Confound those frogs! she can't hear what I say.)

I softened, and the little elves in fairy ring—  
 (Thunder! there goes another string.)  
 Gleeful, chant praises on thy beauty rare—  
 (A bug or something's got into my hair.)

At last she comes, and opens wide her lattice,  
 What's that? She wonders where that cat is?  
 She can't mean me; it's just her fun;  
 And yet—do I behold the old man with his gun?  
 Farewell, dear little heart, I think I'll run.  
 —*Columbia Spectator*.

I've found it true in my case,  
 Though it may not be the rule,  
 That one can be a poet  
 And likewise be a fool.

But I have also noticed  
 That eight men out of nine  
 Can manage to be foolish,  
 And never write a line!—

Full many a roll of pony leaves serene,  
 The dark unfathomed sleeves and text-books bear;  
 Full many a crib is born to blush unseen,  
 Yet shed assistance, hidden by a chair.

### DONATIONS.

#### TO THE LIBRARY.

Rev. Dean Lyster, Kingston—The Diocese of Killaloe, from the Reformation to the close of the 18th century, by P. Dwyer.

Rev. J. H. Brooks, Chicago—May Christians dance? by the donor.

Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, Hamilton, Ont.—Our Religion, as it was and as it is, by the donor.

W. Cassels, Esq., Lyn, Ont.—Illustrations of paper manufacture, folio; Illustrations of Shakespeare, 2 vols., folio.

U. S. War Office, Engineer's Department—Charts of the Lakes and River St. Lawrence, from Chicago to Cornwall.

#### TO THE MUSEUM.

James Shannon, Esq., Kingston—A parchment deed of conveyance of the reign of George III.; a copy of the warrant to execute Mary Queen of Scots; a copy of the warrant to execute Charles I.