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◀ ASTRUM & ALBERTI. ▶

BELLEVILLE,

CANADA.



MAY, 1893.

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—Johnson.

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ASTRUM ALBERTI.

VOL. I.

BELLEVILLE, MAY, 1883.

No. 5.

Astrum Alberti.

Published in TEN NUMBERS during the Academic Year, in the interests of the STUDENTS of Albert College.

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Exchanges should be addressed to the Managing Editor.

THE position of editor of a College journal is no sinecure, and it involves considerable responsibility. By the style of his editorials, and the nature of the contributions which he inserts, the College is judged by those unacquainted with its workings. He must be careful that, in declining to publish some article, he does not entirely discourage the writer, who with a little experience would render valuable assistance. Students frequently give vent to their feelings in rhyming couplets which are quite unreadable, and very often wholly unintelligible to all except the writer, and yet all these must go to the editor for insertion in the College journal. An American writer speaks thus of the work of the editor:

"Poetry is one of the plagues of editors. Whether it be of spring or autumn, or summer or winter, or other sentimental matters, it is the editor's inevitable lot to sit in judgment, and to condemn many of these offsprings of the muses to the flames. A volume of rejected poetry would make a most wonderful and amusing contribution to 'the curiosities of literature.' And yet the editor must be careful so to shape his course as to encourage aspiring merit, and at the same time protect his readers."

It is not expected, however, that articles written by students, amid the press of other work, will be of the highest literary type. If some collegiate exercises were lessened in proportion to the work done for the College paper, then more time would be spent in perfecting contributions, but as all that is done in this respect only increases the work of the student, all we can hope for are the light compositions of the moments when study is a burden. Some are inclined to think that the editors alone should do all the work. They forget that we are human, that we have examinations to pass like the rest of mortals, and are just as liable to be plucked. It is our opinion that all in connection with the Institution should feel an interest in the College paper, and should bear an equal share of the burden.

THE JUNE number of the ASTRUM will not be issued until after the closing exercises of the year. We hope to give a full report of Convocation, and the different gatherings which occur at that time.

PREPARATIONS are being made for the Annual *Conversazione* on the evening of June 20th, which will be under the control of a General Committee of students, instead of under the auspices of the Historical Society, as formerly. From present appearances an enjoyable time will be had and we hope that many of the old students will take this occasion to visit old Albert.

WE HAVE received a reply to Mr. Saunders' communication in our last issue, from A. R. C., in which he handles Mr. Saunders pretty roughly. He accuses him of misrepresentation or misconception, and of taking but a very narrow view of the subject in hand. The communication is unavoidably crowded out of this issue.

EVERY College student who is instructed in the Arts and Sciences is like a man who is a householder. He gathers together knowledge for a time, at the end of which he is expected to bring forth out of his treasury things both new and old. But some for want of ability, time, or because of negligence, are not able when the time comes to produce with honesty the required treasure. The steady, earnest, search for hidden lore is almost ended for this year. Examinations are at hand, to test the result of our work, and so to pass, or not to pass, is now the query. Whether it is nobler in the mind of a candidate for an examination to suffer the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune, blighted expectation, and faded laurels, or by by covert guile escape them? To plug, ay, that's the rub. This seems to be a temptation common to most all students, whether in Theological Institutes or Medical Halls, if the opportunity afforded be a good one. And many students have gone out from Universities laureated with honors, who owe their encomiums more to the insignificant pony than they do to their own genius or perseverance, while their honest classmates, diligent in work, burning their weary lamps into the kindling day have fallen among the slain. It is not at all a pleasant thing to be thwarted in a purpose or defeated in an undertaking; but whether it is more honorable, or ultimately more profitable, to pluck and eat the forbidden fruit with a hardy conscience and stand with the victorious on Convocation day, or after the wind has cleared the field of smoke and feathers to be found among the fallen braves on the field of battle? *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.* More honorable at least than to escape the fire of the enemy and to be ever after branded as a deserter, a disloyal and untrue subject.

This principle of trust will apply as well to the struggle in an examination hall as on military duty, and we hope that at the coming examination it will be so far adopted and this practice of plugging so poorly patronized, that the services of the vigilance committee in the examination hall may be entirely dispensed with.

HOPE.

The poet Hesiod tells us that the name of the first woman on earth was Pandora, signifying "All-gifted," as each of the gods had given her when formed some power by which she was to work the ruin of man. The messenger of the gods conducted her to Epimetheus (After-thought), who made her his wife. In the house of Epimetheus was a closed jar which he had been forbidden to open. But the curiosity of a woman could not resist the temptation to know its contents, and when she opened the lid all the evils incident to man flitted forth and were scattered over the earth, Hope alone remaining at the bottom. Hope, then, is the principal antidote which keeps our hearts from bursting under the presence of evils, and is that flattering mirror that gives us a prospect of some greater good. When all other things fail us, hope stands by us to the last. It is always buoyant, and never tires. Like a balloon, we know where it starts from, but can make no calculation when, where and how it will land.

True hope is based upon energy of character. A strong mind always hopes, and has always cause to hope, because it knows the mutability of human affairs, and how slight a circumstance may change the whole course of events. Such a spirit, too, rests upon itself; it is not confined to partial views or one particular object; and if, at last, all should be lost, it has saved itself—its own integrity and worth.

When all other emotions are controlled by events, hope alone remains forever vigorous and undecayed under the most adverse circumstances—"unchanged, unchangeable." Causes that affect with depression every other emotion, appear to give fresh elasticity to hope. Who is there not influenced and sustained by its power? The fettered prisoner in his dark cell, the diseased sufferer on his bed of anguish, the friendless wanderer on the unsheltered waste, the weary student preparing for examination—each cherishes some latent spark of this pure and ever-living light.

Its morality is inspiring, rich and beneficent. It encourages all things good, great, noble. It whispers liberty to the slave, freedom to the captive,

health to the sick, home to the wandering, friends to the forsaken, peace to the troubled, rest to the weary, life to the dying. It has sunshine in its eye, encouragement on its tongue, and inspiration in its hand.

It is one of the three great elements of Christian life and character. Faith is the root, love the fruit-bearing stem, and hope the heaven-reaching crown of the tree of Christian life. The kingdom of God, past, present and future, is reflected in faith, love and hope. It is the assurance that the spiritual life which dwells in us here will be prolonged into eternity. To live without it, is blind infatuation—to die without it, eternal ruin. Therefore entertain and cultivate a "lively hope." Let its inspiring influence be in the heart of every youth, to strengthen and encourage. "Hope and strive is the way to thrive."

Hope, like the taper's gleamy light,
Adorns the wretch's way ;
And still, as darker grows the night,
Emits a brighter ray.

Contributed.

THE STUDY OF BOTANY.

J. H. SANDERSON.

The study of Nature in any of her forms is highly interesting and useful. But the *heavenly bodies* are far distant from us ; even were they within our reach, they are too mighty for us to grasp ; our feeble minds seem overwhelmed in the contemplation of their immensity.

Animals, though affording the most striking marks of a designing creator, cannot be dissected and examined without painful emotions.

But the *vegetable world* offers a boundless field of inquiry which may be explored with the most pure and delightful emotions. Here the Almighty seems to manifest himself to us with less of that dazzling sublimity which it is almost painful to behold in His more magnificent creations ; and it would seem that accommodating the vegetable world to our capacities of observation, He had especially designed it for our investigation and amusement, as well as our sustenance and comfort.

The study of Botany is at once a healthful and delightful pursuit ; the objects of its investigation are beautiful and delicate ; its explorations, leading

to exercise in the open air, are conducive to health and cheerfulness. It is not a sedentary study which can be acquired in the library but the objects of the science are scattered over the surface of the earth, along the banks of the winding brooks, on the borders of precipices, the sides of the mountains, and the depths of the forest.

The Deity has not only placed before us an almost infinite variety of plants, but has given to our minds the power of reducing them into classes, so as to form beautiful and regular systems, by which we can comprehend, under a few terms, the vast number of individuals which would otherwise present to our bewildered minds a confused and indiscriminate mass. This power of the mind, so important in classification, is that of discovering resemblances. A child sees a flower which he is told is a rose ; he sees another resembling it, and nature teaches him to call that also a rose. On such an operation of the mind depends the power of forming classes, or of generalizing. Some relations are seen at the first glance ; others are not discovered until after close examination and reflection ; but the most perfect classification is not always founded on the most obvious resemblances. A person ignorant of Botany on beholding the profusion of flowers which adorns the face of nature would discover general resemblances and perhaps form in his mind some order of arrangement ; but the system of Botany now in use, neglecting the most conspicuous parts of the flower, is founded upon the observation of small parts of it, which a common observer might not notice. System is necessary in every science. It not only assists in the acquisition of knowledge but enables us to retain what is thus acquired ; and by the laws of association, to call forth what is treasured up in the storehouse of the mind. System is important not only in the grave and elevated departments of science, but is essential to the most common concerns and operations of ordinary life.

Now the very logical and systematic arrangement which prevails in botanical science, has, without doubt, a tendency to produce in the mind the habit of order, which, when once established, will operate in the minutest concerns. Whoever traces this system through its various connections, by a gradual progress from individual plants to general classes, until the whole vegetable world seems brought into one point of view, and then descends in the same methodical manner, from generals to particulars, must acquire a habit of arrangement, and a perception of order, which is the true practical logic.

We find in the vegetable tribes not only a source of refined enjoyment in the contemplation of their beautiful forms and colors ; in their fragrance, by which, in their peculiar language, they seem to

hold secret communion with our minds: but we also find in them food and clothing, and what is more, powers to counteract and remove the diseases to which mankind is subject.

Botany may be considered the elder sister of the sciences. The first account of plants may be traced to the history of the creation. It was on the third day of this great work that God said: "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself." * * * It is recorded that Adam gave names to all the beasts of the field and fowls of the air: and Milton imagines that to Eve was assigned the pleasant task of giving names to flowers and numbering the tribes of plants. When our first parents as a punishment for their disobedience, are about to leave this delightful Eden, Eve, in the language of the poet, with bitter regret exclaims:

"Must I leave thee Paradise,
* * * O flowers
That never will in other climate grow,
* * * which I bred up with tender hand
From the first opening bud, and gave ye names
Who now shall rear ye to the sun, and
Rank your tribes!"

Almost from that time until the present the progress of botanical knowledge may be traced, and of all sciences perhaps no one is settled on a firmer foundation than that of Botany. The improvements of future years we are not able to anticipate; but it is probable that as discoveries and improvements are made they will cluster around the principles already established. Our spirit of government is highly favorable to the promotion and dissemination of knowledge, and may we not justly be proud, knowing that we possess such spirit as pervaded Europe, which may now boast of many stars that irradiate her firmament of letters, shining with brilliant lustre amid the surrounding darkness of ignorance.

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MOHAMMED.

Over thirteen centuries ago was born one whom destiny chose to change the social condition of almost one-half of the globe. What would have been the state of the different nations now professing the Mohammedan faith had Mohammed's influence been withheld, is uncertain. In all probability some would have remained in their former idolatry, while others would have been converted to the Christian faith. Born in the year 570, and possessing no extraordinary talents, Mohammed commenced his career when about twenty-three

years old. He was descended from the Sabæan priests, but according to the traditions of his followers was wholly uneducated. How it was that he could exert such an influence, and establish so firmly his dogmas, has been a subject of wonder to many, but when all the circumstances are taken into consideration, the wonder of his achievement is partially if not altogether lost.

The religion of Arabia, at that time, was not one united system, as in some other countries, but many sects existed which differed essentially in their salient points. Yet persecution was unknown and absolute toleration prevailed. Each one believed what was most convenient, leaving his neighbor to do the same. Sabæanism took all the shapes possible. Magian idolatry from Persia, Judaism, and even the Christian faith, formed some of the principal forms. On the continent of Europe, the dark cloud of ignorance and vice was beginning to cover the canopy. The Church, at strife with the barbarians, and divided among themselves, could turn their attention in no other direction. The social condition of his own people was about the lowest possible, possessing no culture, and believing in what most excited their curiosity, they could readily abandon their old forms and customs for any new and strange ones which would not inconvenience them. All his followers were to receive full atonement, while disbelievers were to be condemned to eternal misery. By dint of persuasion and force of arms, his band was rapidly increased until it was an impossibility for any to withstand his might. Predestinarianism, one of his doctrines, gave rise to fatalism, and his soldiers would face the greatest danger with the utmost indifference. They also possessed another incentive: all who fell on the field of battle were to receive immediate transmission to paradise. Thus by disunion on the part of his antagonists, and the greatest union among his followers, he was able rapidly to extend his principles of religion. Had he lived in a time when the church was united and standing upon a firm basis, no doubt he would have received a check which would have blotted out the evil for ever. As it was he lived at a time, and about the only time, when it was favorable to advance such erroneous principles with the least molestation. —J.

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"How seldom it happens that we find editors bred to the business," said one friend to another. "Very; and have you not often remarked how seldom the business is bread to editors?" replied the other.

AGE OF CHIVALRY.

N. N. PATTERSON.

Chivalry flourished from the tenth to the fifteenth century, about the middle of the Middle Ages. After the fall of the Roman Empire, there was an age of anarchy and terror in Western Europe, which lasted for some centuries, the only redeeming feature in which was the Church, and the only places where might was not the only right, were the few cloisters scattered here and there. But this state of things did not last long. Now and then, some humane person would protect the feeble and redress the wrongs of the injured, in unison with the Church, which favored such men. These were the germs of the institution of Chivalry, and these strengthened and developed until, in 1095, at the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban, in preparing for the first Crusade, issued enactments recognizing Chivalry as a separate institution of Christendom, and charging certain duties upon its members.

Christendom then included Italy, Spain, France, England and part of Germany, and of these countries France was the centre, both in position—being surrounded by the others—and in prosperity of Chivalry. But, as Burke says in his speech against the execution of Marie Antoinette: "The age of Chivalry is gone, the glory of Europe is extinguished forever. Never more shall we behold that generous loyalty to rank and sex, that proud submission, that dignified obedience, that subordination of heart, which kept alive, even in servitude itself, the spirit of an exalted freedom." In the age of Chivalry men admired the strong arm, open hand and brave heart of a Robin Hood; in this, the Modern age, men admire the quick eye, steady hand and indomitable pluck of a Jesse James—and what is the difference? The difference is this—the institution of Chivalry has passed away, and other customs are the order of the day. Instead of the "cheap defence of nations," as some writer defines Chivalry, we have the dear defence; instead of war and the chase, we have learning and novel reading; instead of quarter-staff and back-gammon, we have lacrosse and cards. Still our virtues and vices are the same, but our customs are different. We travel towards the same goal, with the same feelings and impulses, but the features of the landscape are different.

An Irish editor says he can see no earthly reason why women should not be allowed to become medical men.

SHAKSPEAREAN ALPHABET.

AN INTERESTING COLLECTION OF QUOTATIONS.

- All superfluous branches we lop away that bearing boughs may live.
—[Richard II., act III., scene 4.
- Brevity is the soul of wit.
—[Hamlet; act II., scene 2.
- Calumny will sear virtue itself.
—[Winter's Tale; act II., scene 2.
- Death remembered should be like a mirror,
Who tells us life's but a breath, to trust it, error.
Pericles; act I., scene 1.
- Each present joy or sorrow seems the chief.
—[Poems.
- Fraught thy name is woman.
—[Hamlet; act I., scene 2.
- Gilded tombs do worms infold.
—[Merchant of Venice; act II., scene 7.
- He is well paid that is well satisfied.
—[Merchant of Venice; act IV., scene 1.
- It is the purpose that makes strong the vow.
—[Troilus and Cressida; act V., scene 3.
- Jesters do oft prove prophets.
—[King Lear; act V., scene 3.
- Kissing is as full of sanctity as the touch of holy bread.
—[As You Like It; act III., scene 4.
- Life's but a walking shadow.
—[Macbeth; act II., scene 5.
- Music oft hath such a charm as to make bad good and good provoke to harm.
—[Measure for Measure; act IV., scene 1.
- New customs, though they be never so ridiculous, may, let them be unmanly, yet are followed.
—[Henry VIII.; act I., scene 3.
- One doth not know how much an ill word doth empoison liking.
—[Much Ado About Nothing; act III., scene 1.
- Praising what is lost makes the remembrance dear.
—[All's Well That Ends Well; act V., scene 3.
- Queens in bondage are more vile than slaves in base servility.
—[First Henry VI.; act V., scene 3.
- Rumor doth double, like the voice and echo, the number of the feared.
—[Second Henry IV.; act III., scene 1.
- Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind.
—[Third Henry VI.; act V., scene 6.
- The private wound is deepest.
—[Two Gentlemen of Verona; act V., scene 4.
- Unneedful vows may heedfully be broken.
—[Two Gentlemen of Verona; act II., scene 6.
- Vows to every purpose must not hold.
—[Troilus and Cressida.
- Whilst thou hast wherewith to spend
Every man will be thy friend.
—[Poems.
- Xperience is by industry achieved and perfected by the swift course of time.
—[Two Gentlemen of Verona; act I., scene 3.
- Young blood doth not obey an old decree.
—[Loves Labor Lost; act IV., scene 3.
- Zed, thou unnecessary letter.
—[King Lear; act II., scene 2.

NOTES.

This is the way the *'Varsity* deals with our prophet :

A gay old professor named Wiggins,
Said a storm was to visit these diggins,
But he had to postpone
His intended cyclone,
For the sun caused a hitch in his riggins.

A number of typographical errors were discovered in our last issue, the result of too hasty proof reading. We trust that our readers will make allowance for the pressure of the times, and we will endeavor to prevent a repetition.

Boys, read the 2nd, 10th, and 11th pages of this issue very carefully.

Prof.—“Mr. A.—Did anyone ever tell you you were lazy?”
Mr. A. (drawing as usual)—Well I don't know as they did, but I have sometimes thought so myself.

There are none who soar so high as to get above a shower-bath.

Our Janitor is a fine old man.

Prof. Metzler has accepted the 2nd Lieutenantcy of the College Volunteer Company. He makes a fine looking officer.

One of the questions in Latin Grammer for Matriculation will be the principal parts of the verb *fungo*.

A Senior Freshmen sent us the following touching ode:—

“At the feet I was dying to kneel there I knole,
The kiss I was dying to steal then I stole,
And then I felt happier than ever I fole.”

He does not explain the circumstances, but we presume it was the occasion of many “sad thoughts.”

Our exchanges are placed in the Reading Room as soon as the editing committee is done with them. We suggest that the students take note of them, as much valuable information is contained in them, that can be procured from no other source. A careful reading of the different college journals will give one a good idea of the work done in the colleges which they represent, and form a bond of union between student and student.

Our poet is recovering. This is his last effusion:—

’Tis now the fair maiden
Doth gaze on the sky,
And thinking of summer,
Doth laughingly sigh:
“Full soon in the garden
The roses will group,
And then with Leander
I'll sit on the stoop—
And talk about the weather, etc.”

Our foot-ball club received a challenge to play a friendly game on the afternoon of May 6th, but as the 6th fell on Sunday and it is the custom of our boys to go to church regularly, they declined the challenge.

We are beginning to find out that an editor's life is not all hardships. We received last week a complimentary ticket to the Oddfellows' Concert, held in the City Hall on the evening of May 8th. The concert was of the highest class and was well attended. We have found the Oddfellows of Belleville to be of the highest moral standing, very liberal in their views, friends of education, and of this college.

Received: *Queen's College Journal*, *'Varsity*, *College Times*, *Presbyterian College Journal*, *University Gazette*, *Morrin College Review*, *Dalhousie Gazette*, *Sunbeam*, *Acta Victoriana*, *Knox College Monthly*, *Indiana Student*, *Delaware College Review*, *College Record*, *Wallestock Gazette*.

ITEMS.

To crib, or not to crib—that is the question—
Whether 'tis nobler in a man to suffer
The severe tortures of successive trials,
Or to take arms against a crowd of Profs,
And by cribbing, oppose them? To crib—to pass—
No more; and with a *slip* to say we end
The headache and a thousand other shocks
That we are heir to—'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To crib—to pass—
To crib! perchance get caught; and aye there's the rub!

—*Ex.*

There are different ways of getting through college. Some shout their way through, some pony through, some fiddle through, some taffy through, some “my-father-is-a-Methodist-preacher” their way through, some “studying-for-the-ministry” their way through, and a few work through.—*The Dickinsonian*.

It is the dog that has the “pants,” and the young man the pantaloons; but it is not unfrequently the case that before the young man can get safely over the fence it is he who has the “pants” and the dog the pantaloons.—*University Magazine*.

Enthusiastic Professor of Physics, discussing the organic and inorganic kingdoms: “Now, if I should shut my eyes—so—and drop my head—so—and not move, you would say I was a clod! But I move, I leap, I run; then what do you call me?” Voice from the rear: “A clothopper?” Class is dismissed.—*Ex.*

NOTICE.—A student who is afflicted with absent-mindedness wishes us to insert the following:—

“Will the student who loaned another student a sum of money some time ago please remind his debtor of the fact, as he has forgotten from whom he got it.”

GENERAL COLLEGE NEWS.

The question of the admission of women to the educational advantages of McGill is under discussion.

The closing exercises at Queen's took place on 24th April.

The Charter of McGill dates from the year 1821.

Dalhousie College has recently been left \$100,000 by the will of the late Alexander McLeod. We offer our congratulations.

There are above 160 college papers published in the United States.

Queen's received \$1,000 by the will of the late James Michie, of Toronto.

Columbia College dates back to 1759, the money being then raised by lottery. It has an endowment of \$5,000,000, and last year had 1,857 students.

It is rumored that Hobart College is to be removed from Geneva to Buffalo.

Lansing College asks of the State \$57,822 this year. This includes \$18,000 for a mechanical department, and a small sum for an instructor in 'military science.'

At Harvard political economy is the elective chosen by the greatest number of students. At the University of Michigan, history is the most popular elective.

McGill has received \$25,000 towards her law course, upon the death of Lieut.-Col. Stuart, of Quebec.

An attempt is being made to found a School of Art at Princeton.

A college has been opened in Persia under government protection. The professors are all graduates of European colleges.

The lady students of Ann Arbor have determined to publish a paper, the *Amulet*, in the interest of the co-educational system.

The Board of Trustees of Columbia, with the exception of President Bernard, are unanimous in their condemnation of the co-educational system.

Ex-President Woolsey is reported as having said: "When I was President of Yale College I was asked if I would be willing to have women students there. I replied that I would if Vassar College would admit young men. That ended the discussion.

Dr. Martin, the famous Professor of Biology in the John Hopkins University, is only twenty-eight years old.

The young ladies at the Ohio Wesleyan University are required to report to the authorities all topics of conversation in which the young men engage with them, when walking on the street. It is believed that this plan will be promotive of the strictest veracity on the part of the young ladies.

At the recent baccalaureate examination at Calcutta University, two young Bengali ladies came forward as candidates and passed. This is the first appearance of the "annex" in the native form among the graduates of the University. The two ladies are named Kadambini Bose and Chandramukhi Bose.

At the last examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the University of London, seventy-five per cent. of the female candidates were successful, against forty-two per cent. of the male candidates. Only twenty-seven per cent. of the men were placed in the first division, while sixty-eight per cent. of the women obtained this honor.

At Lansing, after considerable trouble about board, the students have found a way out of the difficulty by organizing clubs. Stewards are appointed from amongst their number, who take entire charge and are responsible to an auditing committee. The plan seems to work admirably, the quality of the board provided giving satisfaction, and expenses being reduced to a low figure. We understand the scheme is very similar to that adopted in Trinity College, Dublin, where it has been found satisfactory for many years.

PERSONALS.

Rev. John Burton, B.A., pastor of North Congregational Church, Toronto, is publishing a monthly paper known as *The Independent*.

Geo. Strauchon, B.A., '79, is head master of Woodstock High School.

Rev. E. N. Baker, M.A., '82, has been appointed to the pastorate of Madoc Circuit.

W. H. Anger, B.A., '79, is proprietor and editor-in-chief of the *Niagara Falls Review*.

Geo. S. Wattam, B.A., '81, has passed his first Intermediate Examination in the Toronto School of Medicine.

J. A. Copeland, Com., is running a general store on his own account in Moose Jaw, N. W. Territory.

A. C. Crossby, B.A., '79, is head master of Smithville High School.

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