

THE MCGILL GAZETTE

VOL. III.—NEW SERIES.

MONTREAL, APRIL 1, 1877.

No. 6.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
POETRY	45	University Examinations	49
Canadian Politics	45	The Law Faculty	50
Hockey	46	Football Affairs	51
Coffee and Pistols	47	College World	51
EDITORIAL	48	Personal	51
Correspondence	49	A New Version of an Old Song—Exchanges—Items	52

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THE GAZETTE requests contributions of Tales, Essays, and all suitable Literary Matter from University men. It will open its columns to any controversial matter connected with the College, provided the communications are written in a gentlemanly manner.

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VOL. III.—NEW SERIES.

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No. 6.

TO LORENA.

Lorena, like an angel in the night,
Arrayed in robes of spotless innocence,
Thou comest to my cares with recompense
Of gladness like the tumult of delight,
Which woke the woods of Eden when the sight
Of loveliness like thine upon the sense
Of Adam beamed. I languish looking hence
On places by thy beauty filled with light.
Oh! I would give, to get one glimpse of thee,
All joy, all gladness, all delight on earth,
All happiness by maids to mortals given;
But dare not dream of what the bliss would be,
Which, in my heart, would have celestial birth,
Were I with thee in a terrestrial heaven.

Semper mutant et revolunt
Mundus et mundana;
Experrecto species solvunt—
Omnia sunt vana.

O Juventas! somne grato
In te dormitamus;
Per rosetis tui late;
Nos tripudiamus.

Sed accedit dies dira—
Scimus accessura—
Cum somniculosa lyra
Rule quassitura.

Non commonefaciatis,
Est obliviscenda.
Laeti irridete fatis,
Fata irridenda.

Combibete! Propinate
Nostre almae matri
Hanc gaudentes celebrate
Frater compar fratris.

L. E.

CANADIAN POLITICS.

No one, we feel certain, has ever, for one moment, questioned the advisability of the regulation which excludes from the columns of the MCGILL GAZETTE all controversies connected with Canadian party politics. Apart, entirely, from lack of space and other reasons of this nature, there are countless facts which justify such a limitation of our range of subjects. Were we to allow discussions upon questions of this class, were we even to refer to them as reviewers, were we to touch upon them never so impartially, bad feeling would be the only result of any such action on our part; and consequently, the rule laid down by the originators of

the first paper issued in McGill, and studiously adhered to by the editors of the various years since then, has been, in its operation, beneficial and good. In referring, at the present time, to this point, we do not desire in the slightest degree to depart from our previous practice, but we wish to make a few remarks upon Canadian politics in general, and to say a few words with reference to the political duties of University men.

As one of the foremost writers in this country* remarked in that year: "There exists in this community, no matter from what cause, a proneness to disparage the influence of our public men; to discredit generally the presence of high principle, and to challenge any claim to patriotic motives." This assertion is true, in a still greater degree, at the present moment, and might be extended still further, so as to state that this spirit, exhibited by many to-day, applies not only to statesmen and politicians, but also to politics as a whole. Nothing is more common now than to hear persons who, in the fullness of their conceit, (and we might add in the depth of their ignorance) fancy themselves immeasurably superior to the ordinary run of mortals, sneer derisively at the various public questions which, from time to time arise, and attribute to the worthiest efforts of our public men, motives personal, mercenary and mean. Now, although in some cases these insinuations have some ground of justification; and to a certain extent, many of the issues which furnish matter for debate in our legislatures, may be frivolous and petty; although the treatment of these questions by public men may be, oftentimes, the reverse of lofty and statesmanlike; although, in some cases, the motives of our politicians may be anything but disinterested; and granted that personal recrimination and party prejudice are far too frequently displayed, we question very much whether, even in view of all this, there is any real excuse for the wilful abstinence of any intelligent man or party of men from participation in the discussion and settlement of political questions in Canada. If the range of politics has hitherto been confined; if the matters which have been the subject of legislation in the past have not been of that lofty nature which they possess, or are supposed to possess, in other communities, it is not for any lack of such subjects. Though this country is comparatively young, and though we are debarred from meddling in European politics, still it is by no means the case that there are no great matters for consideration in Canada, matters furnishing scope for the display of most exalted genius and the most scholarly erudition, and which equal, if they do not indeed transcend any questions in politics to be found elsewhere. Let no one then say that, on account of a paucity of important subjects for study and debate, he does not deem it worth his while to trouble himself about Canadian affairs; for, in the proper government of this country, in the conduct of her fiscal and economic interests, in the settlement of the issues between sect and sect, between nationality and nationality, in fact in all Canadian political questions, properly so called, there is given to any man, no matter who he is, an arena, in which ability, intelligence

* The late Mr. Fenning Taylor.

and statesmanship may all be exercised and brought into action. It is the duty of every one, and more especially of University men, to strive to elevate the tone of our political morality, and that man who, for any reason, neglects to perform all the duties of a citizen, all the duties of a patriotic subject should be looked upon as recreant to a most sacred trust.

Another matter connected with this subject is that some seem to suppose that in Canada alone do personalities and recrimination enter into politics. This is a great mistake. Undoubtedly, as a nation, we are not free from this reproach, but to say that Canada stands alone in this respect is erroneous and false. In the discussions on the Eastern Question in England, both on the part of statesmen and in the press, more bitterness, more recrimination, more prejudice and sectional jealousy have been shown than have ever been displayed in any discussion in recent times in Canada. In the United States, politics are a thousand times lower in every way than in the Dominion, so that we are by no means peculiar or exceptional in this respect. And Canadian journalists will be found, on the whole, to occupy relatively a high place, in treating public questions entirely on their merits, and in their endeavours to eliminate from their papers personalities and abusive articles. In proof of the fact that no special stigma attaches to Canadians on this account, we can refer to the most personal and vituperative encounter which ever took place in Canada between two journalists, (the quarrel of the *Nation* and the *Mail*) in which the squabblers were not Canadians, but the one a professor of the University of Oxford, and the other a graduate of the same institution. And more recently in Montreal, in a personal conflict between a clergyman and a pressman, as pointed out by the *Montreal Gazette*, the parties were both recent arrivals from England.

We believe, notwithstanding the repeated assertions of self-important wisacres, to the effect that the press of Canada fail to treat public questions fairly and honestly, that in this respect Canadians are considerably above the average. It is a true saying that "distance lends enchantment to the view," and it is not difficult to explain on this principle the unlimited admiration of a portion of this community for everything foreign, press, politics and individuals, and the corresponding disparagement of everything Canadian and domestic. Happily, however, this state of things is on the decline, and with a new generation, we may expect increased interest in our affairs, greater pride in our nationality, and more energetic efforts to ameliorate our condition in every possible manner.

Again, one of the most frequent statements made in public and private life in this country, is to the effect that there is in reality no difference whatever between the two political parties as they at present are constituted in Canada, that it is merely a game of party in and party out, carried on under old names which have long ago lost all significance here. This serious error, whether it be owing to a want of attention to public matters on the part of those who fall into it, or whether it be owing to their obtuseness and dullness, is one which should be removed as quickly as possible. We have not the space here to define the terms Liberal and Conservative, as used in Canada, but any one who regards the policies of the two parties for the last twenty years, cannot fail to observe that there is a very great meaning in the two terms; that they are not mere worthless appendages, but that they correctly indicate the views, sentiments and motives of two opposite political organizations, both having one common aim, yet utterly at variance in their opinions as to the means by which this end is to be gained.

Seeing, now, that there are grave important political questions to be solved in Canada; that there is room for talents the most gifted; in view of the fact that though our political morality is capable of considerable improvement, it still is far from being so low as to exclude honest, statesmanlike effort; and considering that there are two great parties of widely different policies; and that there is also scope for independent thought, speech and action; what is the duty which, as University men, we owe to our country? We maintain that, as patriotic citizens, we should use every means in our power to support the candidature of good men, and to frown upon the candidatures of bad, incompetent men. And by taking steps, whenever necessary, to secure the nomination of at least one thoroughly good candidate at every election, by discountenancing every attempt to drag personalities into election contests or into the debates in our legislatures, by giving a free and impartial expression of our political opinions whenever we think it would be a means of good; by supporting a lofty, dignified, fair and honest press, by performing, in fact, all those functions which appertain to subjects of a nation such as ours is, we can do much to accomplish, what even the most callous must desire, the material and moral advancement of Canada; the formation, on this continent, of a nation which shall in the ages be a by-word for honesty, truth, justice, prosperity and freedom. Let this be the object of every Canadian, and no fear need be felt for the future of this country. We will, at no distant time, achieve our purpose, and render ourselves worthy our ancestors and their noble name, and inscribe for ourselves a record which shall befit a people great, glorious and free.

HOCKEY.

On Monday afternoon, the 19th ult., the Hockey Club had their return match with the Montreal Club, whom they had before beaten. The game began at 4.30, only six of the Montrealers being upon the ice. These were Creighton (captain), Gough, Joseph, Kinghorn, C. Torrance, and Esdalle. The College team were Abbott (captain), Campbell, Nelson, Redpath, F. Torrance, Howard, Caverhill, and Dawson. After about ten minutes play, Kinghorn took a long shot at goal, which bounced off one of our men's sticks, and went over Campbell's guard. First goal for the Montrealer's, who were now reinforced by Geddes. The game soon recommenced, and from that time till the end of the match neither party secured any advantage. The Montrealers thus won by one to nothing. Although their captain had beforehand protested against any infringement of the rules, they began by playing "off-side," their captain especially distinguishing himself. The play throughout was very rough on both sides. For the College Campbell kept goal splendidly, stopping many very difficult ones. Abbott's pluck and skill gave a splendid example to his side. Of the rest, Redpath, Torrance and Dawson showed very good play. This second match of the Hockey Club is their first defeat; the College, therefore, contrary to some predictions, need not be ashamed to own them.

—The new University colours are white and gules.

SCENE—Sherbrooke Street; TIME—Evening; PERSONS—Young Lady and Medical Student; Conversation slow.

Y L.—"My eyes are very watery this evening."

Med. (absently)—"Nevertheless, they are sweet."

Y L.—"Sugar and water."

Med. (still more absently)—"That's an emetic."

COFFEE AND PISTOLS.

Such is the jocular, half-sneering byword by which we now designate an institution which has only come to an end in our own day; once the only method, among gentlemen, of settling even the most simple and trifling difficulties of every-day life; but at its best, a relic of barbarism, even when clothed in the garb of honour, falsely so-called. And yet, barbarous as it may seem to us of the present day, who look back upon it merely as something to be wondered at, or even, in some points, to be admired; yet, had we lived but a century ago, nothing would have ever occurred to us as a more just and more justifiable mode of making wrong right. But such is human nature; as water takes the shape and colour of the vessel into which it is poured, so are our thoughts and opinions moulded by the thoughts and opinions of those by whom we are surrounded, and by the circumstances in which we are placed.

In no country, with the exception, perhaps, of France, was duelling ever more in vogue than in our own motherland, where, happily, it is now entirely extinct. But, though in England the combined efforts of jurists, statesmen, churchmen and journalists have succeeded in putting it down, yet, like many another old custom, it was loath to die. And even since the courts have regarded the killing of a man in a duel as a capital offence, not a few hostile meetings have taken place. The last notable duel in England was in 1852, between two Frenchmen. The last between Englishmen was in 1845. But though stamped out of existence, its spirit still lives; for, as late as 1868, a challenge was sent from one Englishman to another; the termination, however, was anything but romantic, the challenger being arrested and bound over to keep the peace.

Ireland, too, has long been famous for duels and duellists. But France has exceeded every thing. There the duello is used by all classes and conditions of men to redress insults of the most absurd and fanciful character. Editors, when weary of fighting with the pen, take to the sword, and generally with equal success; for there every man is trained in the use of the foil. From the highest noble to the lowest peasant, all are ready at any moment to take that little trip to Vincennes, St. Germaine, or across the border into Switzerland, in defence of their honour. But among English-speaking people of the present day it is generally regarded in the light of a farce.

Dr. Franklin, after moralizing on the subject, proceeds to tell the following story:—A gentleman in a coffee-house desired another to sit further from him. "Why so?" "Because, sir, you smell." "That, sir, is an affront, and you must fight me." "I will fight you if you insist on it, but I don't see how that will mend the matter; for if you kill me, I shall smell too; and if I kill you, you will smell, if possible, more than you do at present."

Duelling, in its strict sense, and as we understand it, had its rise early in the 16th Century, in the reign of Francis I., of France, when numerous duels were fought, many of which were fatal. During the reigns of Henry IV., Louis XIII., and Louis XIV., many laws were made against duelling, which, if they had been rigorously enforced, might have long ago put a stop to the practice. During the reign of the last two, duelling was at its height in France. I do not incline to the belief of some, who hold that Cain called his brother out by a formal challenge, and that the affair was in reality a duel, nor do I think that we can rightly regard the judicial combats of the middle ages as duels, but, on the contrary, believe, as I have said before, that the 16th Century saw its birth. In England, we do not hear much

of it until the middle of the 17th Century. It reached its maximum in the reign of Charles II.; in the time of George III. it again broke out, and the laws against it seem only to have given it a greater impulse, as duellists were often known to have had pardons from the king before the duels came off.

The weapon first in use was the sword, and being worn by everybody, it was naturally whipped out on every occasion; a knowledge of fencing was therefore a necessary part of every gentleman's education. Next came the pistol, but instead of superseding the former, it became merely an alternative; the choice resting always with the challenged party. Both weapons had the most fabulous care bestowed on them, everything in connection with them being kept in the best possible condition. Many a sword and case of pistols has its romantic story attached to it. A good brace of pistols was constantly in use; if not in the service of the owner, then, in that of some of his friends.

According to computation, the chances of being killed are about fourteen to one, and of being hit about six to one. "Hence," as says Steinmetz, "the farce of duelling. Challenges have been of all kinds: from the polite and courteous invitation to a meeting, to the blustering threat of punishment; wrathful challengers have even ventured into the sacred domains of poetry; the Italians word their challenges with an almost Spartan-like laconicism. The following is a specimen:—

"Sir,—If your courage is equal to your impudence, you will meet me to-night in the woods."

Though the principals often fought alone, yet the custom of arranging matters through second parties was generally adopted; sometimes, too, the seconds took part in the fray, making an exceedingly agreeable quartette, especially for the person who dropped the handkerchief. The duties of a second were always arduous, as great knowledge and skill were required to bring matters to an amicable termination without compromising the dignity of one's principal; and many lives have been lost through ignorance or carelessness on the part of the seconds.

My purpose in writing this short sketch of duelling has not been to recommend it to any one, but if any are so disposed, I would advise them to adopt the following method of settling their disputes:—

A graduate of Cambridge gave another the lie, and a challenge followed. The mathematical tutor of the college sent for the youth, who told him he must fight.

"Why?" asked the mathematician.

"Because he gave me the lie," said the youth.

"Very well, let him prove it. If he proves it, you did lie, and if he does not prove it, he lies. Why should you shoot one another? Let him prove it.—Q. E. D.

READING ROOM.—A general meeting of the students was held on Tuesday, March 27th, to receive the report of the Reading Room Committee. The Treasurer intimated that there was a surplus on hand of \$21 odd, a statement so unusual for a college institution that it was heartily cheered. After receiving the resignation of the committee for the past session, the following were elected a provisional committee for the summer: P. D. Ross, R. Dawson, Holton Wood, J. F. Scriber, P. T. Lafleur. A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to the retiring committee.

—The Harvard students complain of not being allowed to enter the alcoves and take down books. The *Crimson* says it takes too long to find the "Library Boy."

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

1st APRIL, 1877.

Editors for 1876-77.

Managing Editor, '78, D. C. McLAREN.
 '79, W. D. Lighthall, Secy. '78, W. R. Sutherland, Treas.
 '77, A. Jamieson, B.A. '78, J. Ross
 '78, P. D. Ross. '79, G. H. Groves.

A rather exaggerated report of a recent meeting of the Literary Society, which appeared in the *Evening Star*, and which was contradicted by an officer of the Society, has prompted us to consider the relation which students should maintain towards the city papers in the matter of College news. In the American universities, and at Oxford and Cambridge, special correspondents are employed by the leading journals in the neighbourhood of these institutions. Nothing of this kind has ever happened in McGill, chiefly on account of the small quantity of interesting news. Nevertheless, there are students in College who are in the habit of furnishing items of College news to the city journals, gratuitously of course. Now of this, so long as it is properly conducted no one can complain. It maintains a public interest in McGill affairs, and the bounds of propriety are seldom or never transgressed, either by the Montreal papers or by the students. However, though there are certain collegiate affairs of a semi-public nature, such as football matches, concerts, &c., which one man has quite as good a right to report as another, there are other cases where it is a decided breach of propriety for any but the duly authorized officer to furnish information to the public press. As a rule, the meetings of the Literary Society come under the former class, and under ordinary circumstances, no question has been raised as to who reported them for the newspapers. In fact, we question very much if there are many members of the Society who have not, at some time or other, given information to the daily press of the Society's meetings. But a meeting like the one in question, where the discussion was of no public interest whatever, and when the business transacted and the manner of its transaction were matters of private consideration, comes decidedly under the second head. Such being the case, it is wrong, emphatically wrong, for any officious member to expose the private affairs of the Society in the public press. Had the *Star* known the facts of the case this garbled report would never have been published, but all possible reparation was made by the insertion of Mr. DeSalaberry's aerial. However, we trust that in future great care will be exercised by University men as to how they expose their private affairs in the journals of the city.

IN CLOSING, as we do with this number, our short session of editorial life and duties, it may not be unprofitable to glance back at the road over which we have travelled. We are conscious, and none more than ourselves, that all has not been done as it ought, or even might have been done; yet if our successors profit at all by our errors, so that they do not fall into the same, we shall not regret the few mistakes we have made; we say "few mistakes," and our friends, we are sure, will bear us out in saying it. We have at least been successful in gaining the confidence of the students, so that the board of next year will not be met at the outset, as was the case with ourselves, by discouraging doubts on the part of those to whom they look for support. It has been a matter of surprise to us that greater interest is not taken in the paper by undergraduates; important questions have been continually before the students, and yet almost no regard seems to be paid them by those who have most to gain or lose according to their issue. We have had one instance where certain gentlemen who had been criticized by a letter in our columns, instead of replying through the same medium, inquired of us the name of the writer, in order that, forsooth, they might have it out privately with him! This, for reasons best known to ourselves, we declined doing. What hopes we may have had of making the *Gazette* a financial success, are now among those numerous *Chateaux en Espagne*, which have succumbed to the rude breath of reality and fallen shapeless to the ground; but by exercising a moderate amount of economy we have been enabled to keep our heads above water. A word now about the future, vol. IV, No. I, will make its appearance on October 1st, 1877; it is intended to publish it fortnightly during the session, thus making twelve numbers. Little or no change will be made in the form of the sheet; some have objected to the size of the columns, as being large and clumsy; but we can only say that if it has been found to be so by our readers, it is much more so to us on whom devolves the task of filling it, and that to the satisfaction of all who shall read it. Before bidding farewell to our friends, we desire to thank them all for their support, and hope that it will be as heartily extended to our successors in the future; we wish the students success in the approaching examinations, and to all success in life. 'Not Adieu, but Au rev.'r.

CERTAIN students, who disagreed with the views which we expressed in reference to Theological Degrees, in our last number (which we know were concurred in by the large majority of our men), and who were unable to give utterance to their own opinions, either in our columns, which would have been open to them under the usual conditions, or elsewhere, incompetent, we say, to speak for themselves, sought

them a protector, a friend and a mouth-piece, who would supply the want created by their timidity, and give to the world those ideas which they possessed, but could not promulgate. In their search for some one to act in *loco parentis*, these students hit upon the paragraphist (excuse the term) of the *Witness*,—not the *True Witness*—and having humbly stated to this mighty personage the fact that they were misrepresented (*sic*) by the MCGILL GAZETTE, they invoke his aid. It is granted. He seizes his pen!—they hold their breath! He writes!—they stand on tip toe. He is finished!—they kneel and thank him for his assistance. But the result of all this, the paragraph to which we referred, verifies the old saw:—*Parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus*,—for a more senseless lucubrations we never yet had the ill-fortune to meet with. It is in the usual style of the *Witness*; bad English, venomous intention, flagrant misrepresentation and pointless conclusion. In fact, the only part of the paragraph worth noticing is the thorough appreciation which the paragraph-writer evinces of his own merits. We referred to "a certain journal ever hostile to McGill's interests;" intending thereby the *Montreal Daily Witness*. The cap fitted; the *Witness* wore it, but perceiving the inaccuracy, or rather the incompleteness of our allusion, it adds the epithet "unenlightened," and acknowledges the justice of the amended phrase. In fact we hardly know which to despise most, the action of any student in rushing to a sheet like the *Witness* with his troubles, the unconcealed malignity of the writer, or his thorough disregard of truth and fairness, and the exigences of English grammar and composition.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Graduates' Society calling attention to the smallness of the library fund, and requesting subscriptions from Graduates, for the purpose of increasing the revenue of this most important adjunct to an Institution like McGill. The annual revenue of the library is now, the circular states, about \$600, and with the exception of the Redpath and Alexander collections, the books are of a miscellaneous character. We sincerely trust that the appeal of the Society will meet with a generous response from all interested in the College. It would not be a bad idea to have every future Graduate pledge himself to subscribe fifty or one hundred dollars, within four or five years after graduation, to the library fund. Almost every one could afford such a sum, and, though inconsiderable when viewed separately, the contributions would make a handsome total. Let the Class of '77, which has inaugurated so many reforms in College, take the lead in this matter!

Graduates, who have not received the circular, may obtain copies by addressing Dr. Osler, 26 Beaver Hall, Montreal.

—We hope the Moulson Hall will be properly ventilated at the approaching exams.

ERRATUM.—We were in error in stating that the recent controversy took place as to the power McGill should have of granting Theological Degrees. McGill had this power, but a special resolution of the governing body is necessary to an exercise of it, and this consent, we hope, will never be given.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editors MCGILL GAZETTE:

GENTLEMEN.—In reference to your article on Theological Degrees, of March 1st, I think, that, although your opinion is held by a great majority of the students, it is an erroneous one, arising from a misconception of the object desired, and of the means of attaining it. The degree of B.D., as now proposed, would only be granted to graduates of affiliated theological seminaries, who are also B.A. graduates of the University, some general exercise, such as a thesis, being imposed. The advantages of such a course are not by any means few or unimportant. A greater number of theological students would be induced to take a full Arts course than at present; they would then be required to take a three year course in their own theological college, and afterwards present themselves for the University theological degree; they would then be styled graduates of such and such a college, as the case might be. Far from ruining the University, I am disposed to regard it as a beneficial move. That the University would fall into the hands of any one sect is, on the very face of it, a fallacy; for the different denominations would vie with one another in sending men to the University; and owing to the amount of work imposed, the men would be necessarily well trained and creditable to the University. These are, briefly, the facts of the case, and by giving them insertion you will greatly oblige,
C.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

One of the chief objects of a college journal is to convey to those most interested the opinion of students on matters connected with the courses of study or the management of the Institution. In such things students are rarely able to exert any but a negative influence, while the authorities may oftentimes be oblivious to the true interests of the University. And therefore we do not think it out of place to lay before our readers a few thoughts concerning the examinations in Arts.

We might not have ventured to put forth any opinion on the sole strength of our own feelings or wishes, but while turning over the pages of the *Contemporary Review* for March, the following passage appeared in an article on "University Consolidation," by the Hon. Robert Lowe:—"Any University which allows its own teachers virtually or actually to examine their own pupils is, in that respect, an evil, inasmuch as it palms off upon the public a biased for an unbiased tribunal." This, the unequivocal utterance of one of the foremost men in Britain, forms a text on which something might be said with regard to McGill. The question, however, is a very important one, and perhaps our desires have led us to overestimate the benefits which a special board of examiners would confer upon our *Alma Mater*.

There are strong obstructions and difficulties in every case wherever such an arrangement is suggested; these are so prominent in our own case, that it is necessary to take a look at them; and here, as in most enterprises, they are bound to be comprised in two words—money and men. The first,

however, might be reduced considerably from the formidable proportions it assumes at the first glance. In the full course of study in Arts, there are eight or twelve series of examinations; but the matriculation and exhibition examinations, in the first year, are conducted now by gentlemen who do not know the candidates, and, as for the rest of the examinations, we think that the Christmas examinations, which are comparatively unimportant, might be left out of the question, and then by awarding the exhibitions and scholarships at the sessional examinations, there would be only one series of examinations each year which would need a special board of examiners, now such a board would need but three or four members for the space of a month. (The subjects of study, if rightly considered, amount to four: languages, mathematics, natural science, philosophy.) Surely the expense of such a board would not be too great for our University to bear.

The second difficulty is one which we believe it would be troublesome to obviate, so far as our limited knowledge of Canadian scholarship goes. The examiners must be men of high standing and unblemished name, whose knowledge is fresh and serviceable, and who can afford the necessary time. Where can we get them? The only men who fulfil the first conditions, if we are not mistaken, are the professors of sister Universities, and of course they could not give the time, unless, indeed, the system of special examiners is made common throughout the country, and the professors of various Universities simply exchange places for the time,—a vain hope, it seems to us.

Such are the difficulties, and to make clear the need of an attempt to overcome them, it is necessary to show the advantages of the state in which we wish to be.

To the general reasons for the necessity of having special examiners in any academic institution, we can add others applying more particularly to McGill. The first, a comparatively unimportant one, is that some of our Professors demand from their classes more than is given in the text books, *ie.*, refuse to take, word for word, a proof which is surely to be considered sufficient when given expressly for learners in a college text book. We respectfully express our dissatisfaction at this, because if a man from sickness, or other cause, absents himself from a single lecture, he is likely to lose a whole question at examination, although he may have his book-work up thoroughly. This matter, however, is of little account, but there is another and most dangerous evil arising from our professors examining their own pupils. A large proportion of McGill men fail in examinations, especially in mathematics, we believe for this reason: a great deal of ground is gone over during the session, and difficult papers are set at the examination, and our professors have no compunction in setting such papers, simply because they themselves examine them; and though a large part of the class may be cut off, the only remark elicited from outsiders is something like the following:—"What a high-class University have we here;—no child's play to get through the course." No, certainly not! But if a special board of examiners were to come here, and make such an onslaught on McGill students, we would hear different words:—"Gentlemen of McGill, it is evident that your class is not up to the mark, you are going too fast, or your matriculation standard is too low," or something else.

Whatever is the cause, there is no doubt that it is often more than difficult to do well at McGill. In the Department of Science, to which these remarks are even more applicable than to the faculty of Arts proper, the ratio of failure to success in examinations is very noticeable. There is but one man left, in the senior year, of about a dozen freshmen who entered at the same time.

Again, it is almost impossible for a professor to examine, with true impartiality, the papers of students whom he sees daily in class. It is a fact, that not one, out of every ten historians whom the world has seen, has with an impartial relater of the events which he concerns himself with; and to compare small things with great, we think that it is almost impossible for a professor to see a man working honestly and ably in class during a whole session, without forming an unconscious opinion of his merit. Now we do not wish to be misunderstood, our professors are as conscientious and impartial as it is possible for men to be, but we mean this,—a familiar name appears at the head of a set of answers,—if that name belong to one whom the examiner knows to be well up,—many a little slip, perhaps even a big one, will be unconsciously hurried over. But if the case is exactly the reverse, and the student known to be behindhand, his papers are examined, we might almost say, with a magnifying glass.

To conclude, the advantages, concisely stated, would be something like these:—a higher standard of matriculation; less work gone over, and gone over more thoroughly; greater solicitude on the part of professors concerning the standing of their classes; the turning out of more solid scholars, and therefore the increase of the reputation of the University.

Now we may not have viewed this question fairly. The advantages may not be so great as we have stated; the disadvantages, at present, not so real; and there may be objections and difficulties of which we have not taken account. If such be the case we are doubly sorry; first, because we would not like to give a false view of the question; secondly, because a pleasant dream will have been disturbed. But we think we are mainly right. The system we hope for is established in many of the great public schools, and in some of the Universities of England, and has been a decided success. Indeed the most serious argument against the advisability or possibility of establishing such a system here, is the fact, that our Faculty and our Principal, who are ever watchful of McGill interests, have not made any attempt to institute it in our own case, although they have practically founded a court of special examiners for the pupils of our schools.

THE LAW FACULTY.

Querulous fault-finding is to be discountenanced at all times and in all places, but nowhere, perhaps, is it more out of place than in a College journal. However, although we do not for one moment wish to assume a position which could be mistaken for that of a critic, with unfriendly motives, we think that the present condition of affairs in the Faculty of Law justifies our noticing any anomalies we may perceive, and warrants us in making suggestions for the amelioration of this portion of the University. Firstly, as to the *personnel* of the Faculty.

If the Professors of this Faculty attended personally to the duties of their position no objection could be made on this score, for a mere perusal of the list will satisfy anyone that it contains the names of the most eminent members of the legal profession in Montreal, and indeed in the Province. Unfortunately, however, whether through lack of time, or on account of the inadequacy of the pecuniary remuneration, the majority of the Professors have avoided the performance of their duties, and have entrusted the fulfilment of them to lecturers, the greater number of whom are young advocates, possessing neither experience nor knowledge sufficiently great to qualify them for the position which they hold. As a consequence of this, the work has been very

unsatisfactorily done, and the whole tone of the Faculty abased.

Now, we would suggest that, before the commencement of next session an effort be made to increase the efficiency of the staff. Let specialists, men of learning, scholarship and professional standing, be secured to deliver the lectures next session, and the attendance, we venture to predict, will be increased to such an extent as to afford means for the payment of such men.

Another point in connection with this Faculty, is that the attendance of lecturers has been, for the past year or two, extremely irregular, to the great annoyance of the students, who find day after day, on going to lectures, that the Professor or lecturer, as the case may be, is absent. This is not as it should be. When men pay their fees they have a right to expect some return for their money, and it is not only discourteous, but extremely wrong for any lecturer to absent himself week after week from his duties. An honourable exception to the above statements is the learned acting Dean of the Faculty, but of the remainder of the lecturers or Professors, with the exception of Mr. Trenholme, the remarks we have made are true. We hope that, as we have said, an endeavour will be made to increase the efficiency of this Faculty.

FOOTBALL AFFAIRS.

An adjourned meeting of the Football Club was held on Saturday, March 17, to consider the advisability of arranging for matches in the spring, and to settle some other matters.

After the Secretary and Treasurer had made some statements relative to the affairs of the club, it was resolved to challenge the Argonaut Football Club, of Toronto, to a match game, May 6th, to be played at Toronto.

Another important matter settled at this meeting was the change of the club colours from chocolate and mauve, representing only the Arts faculty, to *gules* and white, the general colours of the University. Messrs. E. T. Taylor, H. Abbott, and P. D. Ross were appointed a committee to select the pattern. They have determined on stripes, as in the old uniform, excepting that the caps may be somewhat different. The only other suggestion made was to make the jerseys entirely *gules* (a sort of red), with the McGill shield worked on the breast. This was not considered advisable, however, partly because of the expense, but chiefly because it would be almost indistinguishable from the Harvard uniform, with the wearers of which we have an annual match.

Two other motions passed by the club deserve special mention. The first, moved by Taylor and seconded by Robertson, was to the effect that every man of the football team each year give in to the Secretary his height and weight in football uniform. This record will be a very interesting one when the physical qualities of the teams are compared with their accomplishments, and will be of use in settling the long-mooted question whether weight or speed is most effective in football.

The other motion reads as follows: "Moved—That a committee of three be appointed to draw up a petition to the Principal, to the effect that no other clubs of any kind may be allowed to use the playing-grounds during the summer."

[We believe the words "of any kind" are put in with reference to cows, &c.]

The meeting then adjourned *sine die*.

Before the challenge to the Argonauts was forwarded, the following telegram was received by the Secretary of the Football Club:—

Cannot get ground to play you this spring. Would like to arrange a match for the autumn.

H. De T. GLAZEBROOK,
Argonaut F. B. C.

This unwelcome news somewhat damped the ardour of the club, but it has been resolved to make further attempts to arrange a match with some Upper Canadian club.

COLLEGE WORLD.

—Mr. I. Cushing, '79, has been elected captain of the Harvard football team.

—Harvard crew have had regular practice on the river since March 1st, and are now hard at work.

—The Princeton team has challenged Harvard. The match is to be played in Cambridge.

—The University of St. Petersburg has elected Mr. E. A. Freeman, L.L.D., an honorary member.

—The Chair of Poetry at Oxford is vacant, and a number of candidates have been announced.

—The two eldest sons of President Hayes, aged twenty-three and twenty one respectively, are attending Harvard and Cornell Universities.

—Yale has declined Harvard's football challenge, because "after providing for the nine and the crew, she has not men enough left for football."

—The President, Vice-president and Captain of the Harvard Boat club visited New London on the 17th ult. to ascertain the facilities it offered for the next annual race with Yale.

—Toronto University has joined the Dominion Football Association, which plays English Association Rules. It is not improbable that, next autumn, Toronto will reverse her decision and play Rugby Union.

—In answer to a letter from the Committee of the Glasgow University Conservative Club, requesting from Lord Beaconsfield (then Mr. Disraeli) the consideration of the desirability of a second visit to the Glasgow University, a letter has been received by the President of the Club. It states that Lord Beaconsfield "is very sensible of the honour which has twice been conferred on him by the students, and that he would derive no small pleasure in revisiting their academy. He regrets, however, extremely that he is unable to see his way to visiting the University this autumn, but is happy to remedy that another year from November next has to elapse before his term of office as Lord Rector expires. In conclusion, he can only express his warmest thanks to all connected with the University for the hearty welcome they have offered and the honour they have done him."

PERSONAL.

—E. Lafleur, '77, will be in charge of the Library during July and August.

—'77, J. A. Newnam, at present in Bath, Eng., will return to college next year.

—'76, F. J. Herthington Bac. App. Sc., is studying in an engineer's office in London, Eng.

A NEW VERSION OF AN OLD SONG.

Dedicated to the Graduating (Medical) Class of '77

Nigh to the sexton, who sang his song,
 Stood an old M.D., with locks hoary and long.
 His work was done; but he thoughtfully stayed
 Till his patient's remains in the grave were laid.
 He had heard the sexton, with lips so thin,
 Exultingly cry: "I gather them in!"
 And the doctor answered, in accents strong:
 "I send them along! I send them along!"

"I send them along! For though you build
 The beds they lie in, I get them filled,
 The pills I've made and the physic I've found,
 That's sent them at last to this burial ground.
 Mother and daughter, father and son,
 Come to my surgery one by one;
 But come they weakly, or come they strong,
 I send them along! I send them along!"

"No monarch's laws are obeyed like my own;
 I'm king of the sick; and I make my throne
 On a chair by the side of the wavering life;
 And for sword of state I've my surgeon's knife.
 When they ask my opinion, with anxious face,
 I gravely reply: 'Tis a serious case.'
 Then, to show my opinion is never wrong,
 I send them along! I send them along!"

"I send them along! So thank me, my friend,
 That you've so many funerals now to attend."
 Here the doctor paused, for a message had come
 That another new patient awaited him home.
 So he smiled as he bade the old sexton good bye,
 And he whispered 'im, twinkling his jovial eye,
 "Prepare for more work with those arms so strong;
 I'll send him along! I'll send him along."

EXCHANGES.

—The *Nassau Literary Magazine* is very fair as regards its purely literary part; but what pleasure we experienced in reading it was totally destroyed by such vulgarisms in its account of football matches, as "bucked the ball"; "Princeton did herself proud." These are particularly inexcusable in a University magazine, wherein a high standard is supposed and ought to be maintained.

—The last number of the *Crimson* is before us, and is, as usual, excellent. Particularly noteworthy are two articles, "Provincialisms at Harvard" and the "Novel of To-day." The usual report of the crew gives us to understand that they are hard at work training for the Annual Yale Race. The writer of "A Sang o' the Spring" has, we think, attempted too much, but deserves to be complimented for his success in such a difficult task.

—We have lately received the first issues of the *Colby Echo*, on whose present promise we have no hesitation in congratulating it. The first thing which struck us was the beauty of a sonnet in the opening number; but, as we read on, we found with satisfaction that no less a treat awaited us in the ensuing articles. The second copy contains a piece of pithy advice to subscribers, which we would rather quote than criticize had we space. All we can say is, that if the *Echo* will always re-echo in the same style, it will rank as one of our most interesting exchanges.

—We have a word or two to say to our fellow students in the United States on the subject of football, and we would ask as many of our contemporaries as possible to lay the matter before them. Football seems at the present time to be becoming very popular among American Colleges. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and many others have taken it up, and we doubt not, in a few years

it will be universally played. What we wish to enforce is the desirability of our American cousins securing complete unanimity in the matter of rules of the game. The advantages of this are so obvious that it is needless for us to refer to them here. Many of the leading colleges have already adopted Rugby Union, and these rules will undoubtedly prove the best code extant, so we trust that all colleges which play the game will endeavour to conform to these rules. Inter-collegiate and international matches will be rendered much more practicable and satisfactory than at present, and in fact, in every way would be the more desirable. Copies of these rules may be had from the Secretary of the Canadian Football Association, Mr. R. M. Esdaile, Montreal, who will only be too happy to send copies to any College Club which may desire them, and also any other information required.

—Which is it?—*Vide Globe* Editorial for March 19th.

—The juniors are groaning under a great amount of mathematics.

—The faces of the graduating classes are

"Sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought."

—The annual meeting of the Graduates' Society will be held on Monday, May 3rd.

—Many students study very late the night before an Exam. This is a mistake;—a good night's rest is invaluable.

—The football team are not going to Toronto this spring, as previously supposed; they now think of trying to arrange a match in Ottawa or Hamilton.

—It is currently reported that an assistant to the worthy Professor of English is to be appointed, and that several important changes will be made in the course.

—Hamilton's Xmas present is not yet presented.—A freshman has calculated that in seventeen years the present will be made on time.—It is three weeks later every year.

—We would suggest to the learned Professor who has charge of the editing of the Annual Calendar, that several passages, hitherto ambiguous, be altered and simplified this year. The article on "Exemptions" requires improvement.

—Two of the graduating class in Arts intend to study law, six adopt theology, one goes into business, and three are on "the rugged edge" of uncertainty and doubt. Those who are to study abroad have promised us correspondence next year.

—Our representative on the Committee of the Football Association has made a proposal to the effect that a Challenge Cup be given for competition among the various Clubs in the Dominion. We hope to see this agreed to; and feel confident that McGill will have a good chance for the championship.

—It may be interesting to our classical students to learn that Dr. Schliemann, writing from Athens, states that "the Mycenaean antiquities can leave no doubt in the mind of anyone, that the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone was perfectly right in maintaining that Homer was an Achaean."

—A Canadian Football Annual, on the model of those published in England and Scotland, will shortly be issued. The book will contain reports of the various matches played, lists of Clubs, and best players, and also articles by prominent Football men on points connected with the game. McGill is represented on the Editorial Committee.

—The following is an extract from a letter addressed by Sir Hugh Allan to Dr. G. W. Campbell, Dean of the Medical Faculty, dated March 16th:—

"Our Liverpool letter-to-day advises us that the Board of Trade have rescinded the regulation respecting Canadian surgeons, who are now at liberty to sign articles on their own 'diplomas.'"

—It has long been a subject of remark that comparatively few graduates interest themselves in the annual election of representative fellows—of course the Graduates' Society will make its influence felt in this matter, but all, whether members of the Graduates' Society or not, should exercise their franchise. The question as to Theological Degrees may again come up, and the opinion of candidates on this point should be elicited.

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