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## McGill University Gazette.

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### Editorials.

PROCEEDINGS are afoot by which a public library is to be established in Montreal. The wish to increase means of innocent pleasure and instruction is laudable in the highest degree, and now that the leading cities of the Old World and of this Continent are busying themselves in looking after the wants of the working classes—their bone and sinew—Montreal should show itself alive to its true interests. We do not know how much sympathy will be enlisted in favor of the scheme, but even in a country so young as this, and one in which the race for wealth seems to absorb every effort, it is high time that a modicum of life be devoted to the quieter and more enduring influences that are to be gained only by contact with the best thought of the age. Canada does not lack national idols of a showy and transitory kind, and she spends time, energy, and a great deal of money in their worship, but her monuments which shall be more lasting than brass or marble have yet to be raised. The people who are conscious of the value of reading, even if they do not regard life as a grand merry-making, have a claim on the public ear and purse and can adduce very substantial reasons for indulgence in what is sometimes called eccentricity. Many a man alive to the vital worth of a good book as a source of temperate yet abiding pleasure, has

little or no opportunity of indulging his tastes; to him the establishment of a public library would be a boon indeed, as also to those whose daily duties lead them to frequent use of the literature relating to their respective avocations. A large and wealthy city like Montreal ought soon to boast of a library better equipped in all departments than those of the numerous institutions only now feeling their way towards stability. Our own University library although not very large—it contains about 20,000 volumes—is used as well by our Graduates and Undergraduates as by a portion of the general public. The systematic completeness of our card-catalogue makes reference an easy work, and it is one of the best signs of the internal vigour of McGill that its book-room contains a fair share of readers at all hours of the day. We hope and expect that our store of literature will grow with the increasing power of the University of which it forms so essential a part, but this does not prevent us from discerning the incalculable benefit to be derived by Montreal from the existence of a public library in its midst. From the nature of things the University library is open to a comparatively small class, although we must own that those who enjoy its advantage make excellent use of the material to which they have access. Moreover the books on our shelves are, many of them, of such a technical character as to disqualify ordinary readers from appreciating their real value. A public library ought to have an honourable career in Montreal. Were Canada a reading country, or Montreal a reading city, the success of the scheme long mooted and at last on the point of realization, would be emphatically assured from the commencement. Be that as it may, there is room in Montreal for a public library to exert its influence unchecked; indirectly, it will forward the cause of education and the institutions connected therewith, whether elementary or advanced. What is required for the community is a building centrally situated, which shall contain all the standard words on literary and scientific subjects. The facilities for reference should be as generous as might be consistent with the legitimate needs of the public, and in the selection of new books from time to time a thoroughly liberal spirit should be exercised. There is nothing more gratifying than to see artisans spending their evenings amid the quiet of books instead of frequenting places militating against temporal and spiritual welfare. The large towns of England afford such spectacles at the close of the day of labour, and in some instances the public libraries in provincial districts of that country have accumulated such a wealth of book-literature as to be the literary workshops of all classes. "It is better to advance the knowledge of the world one inch than to win the long jump with two-and-twenty feet," a recent novelist writes. Both are necessary, both the inch and two-and-twenty feet, but the neglect of either, especially the inch, is not to the credit of an enlightened country. We must exercise our bodily powers with assiduity if we desire to win admiration with arms or legs, whether in the arena of physical contest or artistic design, but the brain lives on all the while quietly and unobtrusively, lends itself with the greatest ease to the mode of life its pos-

essor chooses, and often gives no sign of anything more than automatic existence. What is true of individuals is to a certain extent true of nations. A nation ought not to be less noble in reason, less infinite in faculty, less god-like in apprehension than a man. A brainless being though he may win the long jump with two-and-twenty feet, bears only the outward semblance of humanity; in the essence of him he is little better than a forked radish. A short time ago a pointed article appeared in the *Star* on the advantage of fostering the mental life of the Dominion, and we hope it was not without its reward. We are reminded of some remarks by John Ruskin concerning the use of books, and although they do not bear exclusively on the matter of which we are speaking, they deserve to be quoted in connection therewith:—

"Life being very short, and the quiet hours of it few, we ought to waste none of them in reading valueless books; valuable books should, in a civilized country, be within the reach of every one, printed in excellent form, for a just price; but not in any vile, vulgar, or, by reason of smallness of type, physically injurious form, at a vile price. For we none of us need many books. And those which we need ought to be clearly printed, on the best paper, and strongly bound. And though, we are, indeed, now, a wretched and poverty-stricken nation, and hardly able to keep soul and body together, still, as no person in decent circumstances would put on his table confessedly bad wine, or bad meat without being ashamed, so he need not have on his shelves, ill-printed or loosely and wretchedly-stitched books; for, though few can be rich, yet every man who honestly exerts himself, may, I think, still provide, for himself and his family, good shoes, good gloves, strong harness for his cart or carriage horse, and stout leather binding for his books. And I would urge upon every young man, at the beginning of his due and wise provision for his household, to obtain as soon as he can, by the severest economy, a restricted, serviceable, and steadily, though slowly, increasing series of books for use through life; making his little library, of all the furniture in his room, the most studied and decorative piece; every volume having its assigned place, like a little statue in its niche, and one of the earliest and strictest lessons to the children of the house being how to turn the pages of their own literary possessions lightly and deliberately, with no chance of tearing or dogs' ears."

Of all the subjects which it is within our province to discuss, education is undoubtedly the one of most importance to all classes in the community, and it is therefore the one in which we feel the greatest interest, and concerning which we are most often led to speak. The exact relation of education to material advancement would form a subject of no small interest in itself, but it is not upon this feature of the question that we at present wish to dwell. We shall content ourselves with laying down the indisputable fact that in any country the general advancement will take place in direct proportion to the education of the people, other factors being supposed equal. It follows logically that the proper policy to be adopted by any community is to find and carry out the best plan for popular education. In carrying out the details of any system of popular education, one of the problems which at once present themselves is to decide what branches of instruction are to be selected as the fittest to be taught in the public schools. The shortness of the time which can be spent at school makes this determination of the relative value of knowledges necessary, to use Bacon's expression. The standard by which this determination is to be made is undoubtedly that of usefulness. So that those subjects ought to be taught in the ordinary schools which are likely to be of the greatest service to the majority in after-life. Up to a certain point not much difficulty is found in distinguishing what these subjects are: and it is quite unnecessary for us to enter into any enumeration. Beyond this point, however, opinions begin to diverge, and they continue to diverge more rapidly as it becomes more difficult to apply the standard. Now it seems to us that in the case of public schools, since they are maintained by the community for the good of the community, the object to be kept in view is the general benefit, that is the benefit of the community as a whole. It is only on these grounds that the community as a whole has any right to meddle with the education of its members. We, of course, recognize that the character of the community will depend upon the condition of the majority of the individuals that compose it, but this does not alter the way in which we must look at the question. We are led to speak on this subject by a letter which appeared in our last issue, complaining

of the system of education pursued in our Common Schools as being ill-calculated to prepare boys for the struggle to make a living, as well as for other reasons, to which we shall refer presently. Now although we must be careful to recollect that it is by no means the sole object even of our common schools to enable young men to make a living, yet this forms a great part of the whole, and a part which demands our first attention. The object of schools maintained by the community must be, on the very ground that they are thus maintained, to make good and profitable citizens, but the very first requisite towards making young men good citizens, is to give them means of self-preservation and support. Thus any complaint as to the inadequacy of our present system for that purpose ought to be carefully examined into, and all the possible means of improvement rationally discussed. In the present case we must confess that the grounds of complaint have been very vaguely and confusedly stated. Gathering together the different parts which bear on this particular point, the charge seems to consist in this: that after boys are taught to read, write and figure, they learn little that can be of any practical use to them in after-life; that they are required to commit to memory a mass of facts, concerning which they never reason, and which they are not allowed to state in their own words; and that the method of instruction employed does not afford sufficient opportunities for exercising the reasoning faculties. The remedy suggested is, to teach the pupils a little logic, and even a little political science, and to give them every opportunity of exercising their reasoning faculties. We cannot claim to have a very intimate knowledge with the working of our common schools, but we were under the impression that something more than reading, writing, and figuring was taught which was of practical use. If this be not the case, we recommend most strongly that some of the ordinary subjects, such as grammar, geography, history, composition, and elementary mathematics be added—a knowledge of which is eminently useful and eminently practical. We cannot, however, agree with the writer of this letter that after a boy has learned how to read, write, and figure, he should proceed to the study of political science and logic. He must evidently consider the disease to be very desperate, for he proposes a very desperate remedy. In the highest classes some logic might possibly be taught with advantage, but the proposal to try and impart a knowledge of these subjects at the early stage proposed in X's letter, is too evidently unwise to need any discussion. As to committing to memory masses of dry facts, it is one of the necessities of education, and all that can be done in the matter is to present these facts in as palatable a form as possible. Education from one point of view may be considered as consisting of two stages, the one being the period during which we attain so a knowledge of elementary facts, and the other in which we use our faculties in more or less original work. The ordinary school period seems to lie well within the former of these stages. As the writer says, to all intents and purposes the real education of the pupils does not begin until they have left school, but then this after education is built upon the foundation laid in the common school, and its success to a very large extent depends upon the character of this foundation. Of course even in the schools there is a certain amount of what we have described as original work, and we quite agree that every opportunity of exercising their reasoning faculties ought to be given to the pupils, but we must not expect too much at this early stage.

But the letter to which we refer contains a second and distinct charge, which opens up a subject into the discussion of which we have considerable diffidence in entering. It is the old complaint against the purely secular education of our public schools. On this subject our views differ entirely from those expressed in the letter. Neither in the interests of religion itself, nor for the carrying out of the primary object of public schools, do we think that religious instruction should be given. Experience fully corroborates what might easily be foreseen, that the religious instruction which could be given in public schools tends very much to produce irreligiousness, and a total want of that reverence without which religion is impossible.

We are obliged to our Morrin College friends for their communication. The matter to which they refer does not deserve any notice from us, and on the letter to which they direct our attention, the old line from Horace—*Vis consili experts mole ruit sua*—is an apt commentary.

## Contributions.

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

## STUDENTS AND GENTLEMEN AND MEN.

The conviction that a man's actual belief on any subject of vital importance can in this age be more truthfully ascertained from his actions than his professions, seems to be deepening. If it be so, a few conclusions may be drawn with respect to college students, that if well-founded, are very suggestive. First of all, it is a fact worthy of explanation, that a considerable proportion of even graduates of colleges seem to have very little either of refined feeling or lofty moral sentiments. Many a man who takes a gold medal in classical or modern literature, enters a profession, and so far as those who meet him can judge, never betrays any real love for that branch of literature to which to all appearances when an undergraduate he was a devotee. Another difficulty needs explanation. How is it that so many men that have apparently that intellectual ability to master literature, or at least, literary forms, seem to embody so little of its refining influences in the 'outer man'? That such practices as are implied in the term 'hazing'—which seems to be a sort of epidemic, moral epidemic, of late among American Colleges, should thus prevail, affords sufficient grounds for these questionings. The conclusion seems inevitable that a large number of men resort to institutions for higher culture, who have no real capacity for such culture—no depth of earth—where there are strong neutralizing, preventing influences in operation; perhaps both.

There can be no doubt that a large number of men undertake professional study who have no special love for the professions they adopt; so much the worse for the professions, so much the worse for the men. But it is also true that men choose an Arts course with equally little love for science or literature. Admitting the fact, we must ask, "is there any remedy?" So long as an examination is made the sole standard by which men are to be accepted or rejected, barren souls will get into pasture. But it is a pleasing feature of the advance of the age to note that at some of the most progressive educational institutions of the world, examination is no longer the test in selecting students, for at least the more advanced study.

With respect to the Balfour Memorial Studentship in Science, soon to be established in England, it is distinctly stated that the election of the man to enjoy the honour shall not be by *competitive examination*; but that individual shall be chosen who seems *best fitted to carry out the objects of the studentship*.

But again, admitting that all those that matriculate are not just the sort of stuff that the Universities care to mother if better could be found to become her children, what can be done to improve the material now that it is on hand? We make a few suggestions:—

(1.) The establishment, as soon as possible, of conditions favourable to a genuine 'college life.' In America there is less of this than in England, and in Canada less than in the United States. Men attend classes at college, but it can scarcely be said they attend college. They know very little of each other outside of the classes, and that mutual reaction of mind on mind elsewhere is all but unknown to us. Until it exists it is difficult to conceive of the growth of that sort of culture which makes the gentleman and fills out the man. We deprecate the formation of *coteries* and *diques*, but we would hail with the utmost cordiality any means that would develop the social, the refined, and the manly in our students.

(2.) The formation and especially the hearty support of societies, both literary and scientific. These societies might become strong enough to secure the services of able men as lecturers, readers, &c., outside of the college and the city. A society calls upon a man for some exhibition and therefore some development of his individuality, which is apt to be lost sight of in the ordinary college work.

(3.) The interchange in various ways of intercollegiate courtesies, &c., &c., which would open the eyes of all to points of special merit possessed by others.

But it is not likely that these desirable results can be achieved so long as students remain content to be merely students, without aiming at being cultured gentlemen and rounded men. We need a change in our views of what is desirable. A college should not be considered an institution whose chief end is to quicken a man's wits so that he may merely *act* his way the better through the world attain a position, or amass wealth. He may do both without being any the less a gentleman or a man; indeed he is the more likely to do so, but should he attain neither high social position nor wealth, his life must not be considered a failure. Let us hope that in the future we shall have less preaching to youth of the doctrine of excelling other people and more of excelling the present general standard. Preach not to A. about excelling B., but of A.'s excelling his present self and striving after that symmetrical manliness implying mental, moral and physical development. In this country we need the lesson of patient steady toil, so well known in the older countries of Europe. We fret, we chafe, we fume. And for what? Often only to get free to use what we have for the commonest ends—to make money or attain social or other

distinction. After all, when we act thus, how much better are we than those that never entered a college? But that is not all—how much worse? Yet these things need not be; let us apply the remedies.

We are making some progress and some of its signs are visible at McGill. Here is a field for the noblest ambition. We may begin by pruning but we shall end in a more perfect growth.

T. W. M.

## THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

Just at this time, when McGill has equipped another fleet and is about to launch it on the legal sea, the remarks of Ex-Governor Hubbard on "Professional Fame," would seem to us to be very appropriate.\* Too often do we hear the profession of the law underrated, and even its practice declared inconsistent with that of Christianity. If such remarks were confined to rogues and rascals, who have just cause to deride what they must fear, we should not be surprised; but it is astonishing to find so many, apparently honest and certainly common-sense persons, carried away by this popular idea. Is it, that from their hurried judgment, they fail to distinguish between an evil, and the remedy necessary to cure such evil? It would seem so. For every day we hear this sophism, "Oh the Law! it only can have play when misfortunes and troubles befall us." Very true. But does it *create* these misfortunes and troubles? Is it not rather the prudent agent of Justice, ever ready to redress the wrongs which the blunders of others have caused? When a young man by some overt act has disclosed a talent of dubious merit, you will hear his friends cry out, "You would make a fine lawyer." Now why should this be? If those who are so prone to find fault were honest in their attacks, they would see that such tactics rather increase the evil they deplore, for many an otherwise bright intelligence has been thus deterred from entering the profession; whilst rogues have been led to think that in it they would find scope for their roguery, and in this way have swelled the ranks of the *few* who throw discredit on a noble profession. We hope that in the quotation which follows the members of the graduating class will see a prophecy of their own career.

Mr. Hubbard says: "To my thinking the most rigorous brain work of the world is done in the ranks of our profession. And then our work concerns the highest of all temporal interests: property, reputation, the peace of families, liberty, life even, the foundation of society, the jurisprudence of the world, and as a recent event has shown, the arbitration and peace of nations. The world accepts the work, but forgets the workers. The waste hours of Lord Bacon and Sergeant Talford were devoted to letters, and each is infinitely better remembered for his mere literary diversions than for his long and laborious professional work. The cheap caricatures of Dickens on the profession will outlive, I fear, in the popular memory, the judgments of Chief Justice Marshall, for the latter were not clownish burlesques, but only masterpieces of reason and jurisprudence. The victory gained by the Counsel of the Seven Bishops was worth infinitely more to the people of England than all the triumphs of the Crimean. But one Lord Cardigan led a foolishly brilliant charge against a Russian battery at Balaklava, and became immortal. Who led the charge of the Seven Great Confessors of the highest church against the English Crown at Westminster Hall? You must go to your books to answer. They were not on horseback. They wore gowns, not epaulettes. The truth is we are like the little insects that in the unseen depths of the ocean lay the coral foundations of uprising islands. In the end come the solid land, the olive and the vine, the habitations of man, the arts and industries of life, the havens of the sea, and ships riding at anchor. But the busy tribes which laid the beams of a continent in a dreary waste are entombed in their work, and forgotten in their toms."

And further he continues, "We may justly console ourselves with the reflection that we belong to a profession which above all others shapes and fashions the institutions in which we live, and which, in the language of a great statesman, 'is as ancient as the magistracy, as noble as virtue, as necessary as justice'—a profession, I venture to add, which is generous and fraternal above all others, and in which living merit is appreciated in its day, according to its desert, and by none so quickly and so ungrudgingly as by those who are its professional contemporaries and its competitors in the same field. We have our rivalries—who else has more?—but they seldom produce jealousies. We have our contentions—who else has so many?—but they seldom produce enmities. The old Saxons used to cover their fires on every hearth at the sound of the evening curfew. In like manner, but to a better purpose, we also cover at each nightfall the embers of each day's struggle and strife. We never defer our amnesties till after death, and have less occasion therefore than some others to deal in *post mortem* bronzes and marbles. So much we may say without arrogance of ourselves—so much of our noble profession. No better proof and illustration can be found than in the life just closed—a life clear and clean in its aims; full of busy and useful labours; void, I dare believe, of offence toward God and man, and crowned in its course with that three-fold Scriptural blessing—length of days and riches and honour."

C. D.

\* L. N. p. 25.

† William Hungerford.

## College World.

MCGILL

UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

Feb. 2nd.—Reading, Mr. R. C. Kirkpatrick.

*Subject for discussion*—"College life and its accessories."*Speakers*—Messrs. Livingstone, J. K. Unsworth, J. W. Pedley, J. R. Murray, C. E. Bland, and W. Climie.

Feb. 9th.—Reading, Mr. E. Munro.

*Subject for Debate*—"Resolved that Capital Punishment should be abolished."*Affirmative*—Messrs. G. C. Wright, D. A. McRae and J. K. Unsworth.*Negative*—Messrs. A. A. Mackay, K. Cameron, and W. S. Kennedy.

Feb. 16th.—Reading, Mr. Lochhead.

*Subject for Debate*—"Resolved that Luxury is more productive of Crime than Poverty."*Affirmative*—Messrs. Climie, Turner and Wright.*Negative*—Messrs. G. F. Calder, W. Saunders, and R. A. E. Green Shields.Feb. 23rd.—*Essay*, Mr. J. R. Murray.*Reading*, Mr. Wm. Patterson.*Subject for Discussion*—"The Canadian Franchise."*Speakers*—Messrs. Climie, Pedley (J. W.), Lochhead, Colquhoun and Fyles.

It is rumored that the Undergraduates' Literary Society are about to have a public debate within the next few weeks. The matter will probably be discussed at the regular meeting on Friday, 2nd March, so that we advise members interested in the matter to be present.

The practices of the Glee Club become more and more successful each week. It is a pity that the club was not started earlier in the year as there will hardly be sufficient time to prepare for a concert this Spring.

The examinations for the Sutherland Medal, open to the primary students in Medicine, will be held on the 17th of March, and those for the Morris Scholarship on the 10th. prox.

## FOOT-BALL.

The annual meeting of the foot-ball club was held in the Reading Room on the 14th. inst. The attendance was not as large as could be desired.

The action of the club representatives in reference to the formation of the Quebec Rugby Union was approved of. The following were elected officers for the session '83-'84:

*President*—Mr. J. H. Rogers, (re-elected.)*Captain*—Mr. H. S. Hamilton, (re-elected.)*Treasurer*—Mr. J. L. Hislop.*Secretary*—Mr. J. K. Unsworth.*Committee*—Messrs. J. Elder, A. Shearer, Geo. Rogers, Geo. C. Wright, A. W. Smith.

The foot-ball team have been photographed at Notman's. Copies may be had at his studio, Bleury street.

## ANNUAL DINNERS.

The Undergraduates in Applied Science held their annual dinner at the Richelieu, on the 1st of February. Shortly after eight o'clock, about thirty-three embryo engineers having assembled, the chief led the way to the base of operations, and in a few moments, all were working as if their professional reputation depended on their ability in making extracts from the tables, and taking out quantities. Even the freshmen gave ample evidence of the thorough knowledge of precipitates. Some of them appeared quite familiar with the management of  $\pi$ , while their facility in making cuttings, levelling, &c., could only have been the result of concentrated application.

In time, however, the zeal of the most energetic began to flag, and the engineer in charge considered it advisable to introduce counterbraces, and proceed with the less arduous part of the programme.

The representatives from "L'Ecole Polytechnique," "Medicine," "Arts," and "Law," strengthened by their appropriate remarks the tie which "Light as air though strong as iron" binds the Sister Faculties together. Between midnight and the first of the "sm' hours" the session adjourned, with the good wishes of all for the health of "mine host" who had contributed so materially to the enjoyment of the evening and the advancement of Science.

The following gentlemen responded eloquently to the toasts with which their names are coupled:

"The Queen and Governor-General."

"Alma Mater"—Mr. Jas. McEvoy.

"Sister Universities"—Mr. Garneau.

"The Dean and Professors"—Mr. Jno. McDonald.

"Our Graduates"—Messrs. C. W. Trenholme, B.A., J. H. Burland,

B.App.Sc.

"Class '83,"—Mr. D. B. Dowling.

"Sister Faculties"

"Medicine"—Mr. A. McLeod.

"Arts"—Mr. R. A. E. Green Shields.

"Law"—Mr. Dickson.

"Reading Room Committee"—Mr. J. Roy.

"Ex. Classmates"—Mr. Stevens.

"Sporting Interests"—Mr. J. L. Hislop.

"The Press"—Messrs. R. A. E. Green Shields and Jos. Mignault.

"Our Host"—The Proprietor.

"The Ladies"—Mr. A. Weir.

Songs were sung by Messrs. Dagron, Dowling, Lesage, and Trenholme.

The Annual Dinner of the Junior Class in Arts took place in the Richelieu Hotel on Tuesday, February 6th. After full justice had been done to the excellent menu, the following programme was carried out:

1. The Queen,....."God save the Queen."

2. Canada and the Governor-General,.....Mr. A. W. Gerrie.

*Song*—Mr. R. A. Kennedy.

3. United States,.....Mr. G. Massé.

*Recitation*—Mr. J. K. Unsworth.

4. Alma Mater,.....Mr. J. H. Marceau.

5. Sister Universities,.....Mr. J. K. Unsworth.

6. Professors,.....Mr. W. H. Turner.

7. Applied Science,.....Mr. J. Hislop.

8. Medicine,.....Mr. W. Christie.

*Recitation*—Mr. A. W. Gerrie.

9. Law,.....Mr. A. A. MacKay.

10. Theology,.....Mr. J. W. Pedley.

*Song*—Mr. J. H. Marceau.

11. Seniors,.....Mr. J. R. Murray.

12. Sophomores,.....Mr. W. Lochhead.

13. Freshmen,.....Mr. E. D. F. Holden.

*Duet*—Messrs. J. Marceau and G. Massé.

14. Undergraduates' Literary Society,.....Mr. K. Cameron.

*Song*—Mr. G. Massé.

15. Sports,.....Mr. R. A. Kennedy.

16. The Press,.....Mr. R. C. Kirkpatrick.

*Song*—Mr. A. A. MacKay.

17. Our Benefactors,.....Mr. G. C. Wright.

18. The Ladies,.....Mr. Mabon.

19. The Class of '84,.....Mr. Geo. Rogers.

The Committee was composed of Mr. Geo. Rogers, President; Mr. Geo. C. Wright, and Mr. Christie. The President of the year fulfilled the duties of Chairman in a very able manner, and many of the speeches during the evening were of a very high character. In replying for the Sports Mr. Kennedy made an amusing and exhaustive address. Mr. Unsworth treated the company to an original parody entitled "The Charge of the Heavy Brigade," while Mr. MacKay also sang a very amusing and original parody of one of the college songs in a masterly way. After a very enjoyable repast the company broke up about half-past one.

The annual dinner of the Sophomore Class, Arts, took place at Pelloquin's Hotel, Back River, on Friday February, 9th, the very day upon which Prof. Wiggins predicted that a great storm would burst upon Montreal. The Sophomores, however, disregarding these predictions and placing their trust rather in Vennor, left McGill College gate at 6 45 p.m., singing "Good Bye, Ladies!" to the boys who were standing around. The evening was clear and bright, but the roads were somewhat heavy, owing to the storm of the previous day. The party arrived at Pelloquin's about 8 o'clock, where a dinner awaited them. The cold bracing air, and perhaps the want of food for some time, had given all a keen appetite. After the despatch of this part of the programme, the party adjourned to another room, when Mr. Lochhead, the President of the year, took the chair and proposed the following toasts, which were responded to by the gentlemen whose names are coupled with them:—

"Canada and the Governor-General," by Mr. G. A. Thompson; "United States," by Messrs. J. A. McLean and A. McArthur; "The Professors," by Mr. M. Watson; "Theology," by Mr. J. A. McFarlane; "Medicine," by Mr. W. G. Stewart; "Science," by Mr. Jno. Hislop; "Law," by Mr. Wm. Climie; "The Seniors," by Mr. R. A. E. Green Shields; "The Juniors," by Mr. R. A. Kennedy; "The Freshmen," by Mr. E. D. F. Holden; "Sister Universities," by Mr. J. H. MacVicar; "The Undergraduates' Literary Society," by Mr. G. F. Calder; "The Press," by Mr. A. H. M. Colquhoun; "The Ladies," by Mr. G. A. Blair. On Mr. R. A. E. Green Shields proposing the toast to the Sophomore year, the chairman responded on behalf of the class.

The following gentlemen also added to the pleasure of the evening by singing songs in their usual efficient manner:—Messrs. Budden, Stewart, Thompson, Watson, McFarlane and MacVicar.

On the conclusion of the programme, the party returned to the city, after having spent a happy and sociable evening.

On Friday evening last, the Arts Freshmen held their annual dinner at the Richelieu Hotel. The dinner was served at 8 o'clock and was attended by about twenty-six gentlemen, including representatives from each of the Senior Years in Arts and from the Faculty of Applied Science. Mr. E. D.

F. Holden, President of the Year, presided. After a choice bill of fare had been fully served and as well enjoyed,

By students, blithe, who midst they dine,  
Do many classic jokes define.

the company retired to the vicinity of a piano which had been placed at their disposal, when they sang

In tones alternate, mild and strong,  
Many a noble college song.

Mr. S. A. Thomas played the accompaniments. When the vocal apparatus had thus been made flexible, the table once more became the centre of attraction, and the drinking of a long list of toasts was begun. The first was that in honour of the Queen, which was answered by the National Anthem. Then followed the toast of the Governor-General and Local Governor, responded to by Mr. C. M. Farlinger in a speech adorned with many pictures of our country's future greatness, and that of the Dominion and Local Governments, replied to by Mr. F. M. Hibbard. Mr. Yates, to the toast of Alma Mater, made a very *apropos* and loyal response, which called forth a hearty cheer for Old McGill. The Dean and Professors, after being compared with those of the European Colleges, were ably supported by the Rev. A. Internosia, who replied to the toast in a speech in English and Italian. After the toast of the Sister Universities had been drunk and responded to very suitably by Mr. A. B. Clements, the Sister Faculties—Medicine and Law—were upheld in well ordered speeches by those who soon

Would be disciples of Apollo mild,  
Or follow Themis in her tortuous course,

viz., by Messrs. Pell and Claxton. Mr. D. B. Dowling, in replying to the toast of Applied Science, said that the degree of B.A. was often more valued before its attainment than after, but that it none the less deserved to be gained. The toast of Theology was then drank with honours and answered by Mr. T. MacDougal in a few well chosen remarks. Then followed the toasts of Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores, responded to in eloquent speeches by the representatives of these three years, Messrs. England, Blackader, and Watson. Mr. England, in referring to the harmony that pervaded the several classes in McGill, said that it was exceptional, and very seldom so unanimously maintained in other Universities of similar standing. Mr. Pedley replied to the toast of the Literary Society in a speech, which, were it acted upon, would largely increase the present attendance of that society. The toast of the Glee Club was next proposed, to which Mr. Dewar responded, holding forth to that new but indispensable institution, the most brilliant prospects for the future. Mr. Kenny, in answer to the toast of College Sports, insinuated, and not without a good deal of truth, that more interest seemed to be taken in talking of the sports than of thoroughly practising them. No toast of the evening was received with greater enthusiasm than that in honour of Our Benefactors, to which Mr. Rodic made an appropriate reply. The Press and the Ladies then received worthy attention and were supported by speeches from Messrs. Wm. Patterson and C. H. Livingstone, respectively. Mr. England of the Graduating Class, then proposed the toast of the Freshmen, which was drunk by the representatives present, and eloquently responded to by Mr. E. D. F. Holden. This brought the long list to an end. The programme was varied at fitting intervals by vocal and instrumental music furnished by Messrs. Thomas, Holden, Livingstone, Dewar, Swabey, and Clements. After having spent a most enjoyable evening, and one which will not soon pass from the memories of those present, the company at about 2.00 a.m. began to break up by mutual consent and wend their several homeward ways.

A practical joke of an extensive character was recently played upon a Freshman in Medicine. It appears that some trouble had arisen between the said Freshman and his boarding mistress, on account of the continuous bedlam which the former kept up in the house. After a time the student was obliged to vacate as the lady asserted that all her boarders were leaving in consequence of his misbehaviour. The Freshie's friends thinking they had fit material for a good joke procured the services of a law student, who caused a bogus Writ of Summons and Declaration to be served upon the innocent. The feelings of the young man upon the receipt of "Victoria, by the Grace of God, &c.," were not of the pleasantest character, especially as the summons concluded with a prayer for pecuniary condemnation of two hundred and fifty dollars. Much sympathy was evinced by his numerous and kind friends in this time of his distress. Finally a member of one of the leading law firms in the city was consulted at his office and the document was immediately declared to be a fraud.

It is said that the effect of this joke has not been without benefit to the self-contained and condescending victim.

Owing to a misunderstanding in the appointing of a representative, McGill was not represented at the dinner of the Laval Medical Undergraduates, held recently at the Richelieu. We believe it was a very enjoyable entertainment.

#### GENERAL.

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

Mr. Ryan, the well-known boxing master, of Manchester, is getting up a class at Hanover.

It is expected that a company of Princeton students will produce a play sometime during the spring.

The rumor of the resignation of Dr. McCosh is without foundation.

Harvard College Observatory has become the centre of astronomical information for the United States.—*Ex.*

Johns Hopkins University has secured Dr. Bluntchli's library, which is the best collection of works on international law in the world.—*Ex.*

In the number of college secret societies the following institutions excel; University of Michigan, with over thirteen; Cornell, ten; Yale, nine; Columbia, eight; Union, six, and Harvard, three.—*Ex.*

The University of Vermont has received a bequest of \$115,000. A handsome gymnasium is to be erected. A bronze statue of Lafayette, who laid the corner stone of the University, is soon to be unveiled on the campus.—*Ex.*

President Angell has just issued his report of Michigan University. The number of students is 1,534, second only to that of Harvard, which leads with over 1,600. Of Ann Arbor's 1,534 students, 184 are women.—*Ex.*

Mr. George Darwin, who has been made Professor of Astronomy in Cambridge University, is said to possess more than his celebrated father's versatility, all his father's love of thorough work, and no little share of his father's power of exposition. Though he is only 36 years of age he is a Fellow of the Royal Society. He is not merely an astronomer—he is a geologist a biologist, and a chemist, and is distinguished in all.—*Ex.*

There is an Oxford story of a solicitor, who, in trying for a degree in law, was 'ploughed' upon a text-book of which he was himself the author. But the recent examination for the call to the bar has furnished even a more startling illustration of the futility of examinations as a test of practical knowledge. Two of the disappointed candidates are men who have already attained eminence at the Indian bar, where the practice is substantially the same as in England and where the standard of the bar is notoriously but little inferior. One of these gentlemen has for some years had a professional income of £15,000 per annum, and the other holds a judicial appointment; and yet neither, according to the sapient decision of an examination, could be trusted to conduct a case!—*Truth.*

Michigan University has 1,415 students in all its departments.

Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Gladstone, and other distinguished men intend to be present at the performance in Greek of the "Ajax" of Sophocles, at Cambridge University.

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

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.

It is shewn by the last census that there are in the United States nearly five millions of persons unable to read, and over seven millions unable to write.

Ridley Hall, near Cambridge, built at a cost of over \$200,000, for the purpose of training young men in the evangelical principles of the Church of England, has been formally opened.

It is stated that for the first time in the history of Yale College more than one half of the Sophomore class are professing Christians.

One New Haven firm sells 120,000 cigarettes a month to Yale College students, or for the ten months of the year that the "mer" are in town, 1,200,000, at an average of little more than half a cent apiece, a total of about \$6,000 a year. The same firm receives \$15,000 yearly for soda and mineral waters sold to the students, and a monthly cigar account with the collegians, reaches \$500. And this is the record of but one firm.

Amherst has lost her gymnasium and also other buildings by fire. Loss estimated at \$185,000.—*Ex.*

The editor of Williams College *Athenaeum* is H. A. Garfield, son of the late President.

*The Moon* is the name of a weekly newspaper published by the inmates of the insane asylum on Ward's Island, New York.

A coffin was discovered while some excavations in the nave of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin were being made, containing a box which held the skulls of Dean Swift and Stella, and a glass bottle in which a manuscript was sealed which it is thought may contain something of interest.

Cambridge has only 835 Freshmen this year.—*Ex.*

The Oxford undergraduates are going to start an 'Oxford Magazine' next term, which is apparently to follow on the lines of the existing "Cambridge Review."

Dr. Arthur Coleman has been recently appointed by the College Board to the Chair of Natural History and Geology, in Victoria University.

The general catalogue of Princeton, just issued, shows that the alumni of the college number about 5,500 of which 3,000 are living. A hundred and eighty-nine have become presidents or professors in colleges. The mortality has been greatest among the politicians, least among the clergy.—*Ex.*

The Class of '82, Yale, gave \$10,000 to the athletic sports. The grounds of the new Athletic Park are to contain thirty acres. They will contain a quarter mile track, lawn tennis courts, base-ball, football, lacrosse, and cricket grounds. The grand stand is to cost \$5,000.

Two hundred thousand dollars have been subscribed towards a Catholic University, to be founded at Chicago.—*Ex.*

Boston University is building a gymnasium for the accommodation of its lady students.—*Blackburnian.*

A "Student's Loan Fund" has been instituted at Central College, Fayette.

Miss Helen Gladstone, daughter of the premier, has accepted the vice-superintendency of Newnham College, Eng.—*Blackburnian.*

It was stated at a public meeting in Edinburgh last week that a bequest of £15,000 to the University had been revoked in consequence of Professor Rutherford's experiments in vivisection.—*Ex.*

A gift of \$250,000 is reported from the citizens of Cambridge, to Harvard College, for new dormitories, the rent of each of which shall not exceed \$50 a year.—*Ex.*

Mr. Robertson Smith, the great biblical scholar, has accepted the professorship of Arabic in the University of Cambridge, vacated by the death of Prof. Palmer.—*Badger.*

The Prince of Wales' two elder sons are being prepared for the next session at Oxford.

The Duke of Devonshire, Chancellor of Cambridge University, has given £100 to the Giton College Extension Fund.

The Mayor of Manchester presided at a meeting held lately for the purpose of establishing a fund to establish a Natural History Museum in connection with Owens College. Towards the £50,000, which will be needed, about £20,000 has been subscribed.—*Ill. London News.*

A representation of the "Ajax," as given lately at Cambridge University, was given on the 3rd ult. in the College Hall, Eton. The original scenery and music were employed with excellent effect, and the performance was wholly successful; there was a large and distinguished audience.

An influential meeting was held in Denbigh lately under the presidency of the Mayor, to consider the question of Welsh education. Resolutions affirming that a Governmental offer of £4,000 yearly for Welsh education be thankfully received, and that Denbigh, in salubrity, healthiness, centrality, railway facilities and scenery, presented a most eligible site for a North Wales College, were carried, and a large committee was formed to carry out the work. A gentleman sent authority to contribute £1,000 to facilitate the scheme, which has received much popular and local support.

The will (dated July 30, 1873) of Mr. Francis Maitland Balfour, late of Trinity College, Cambridge, who died on July 10th last, on the Glacier of Treyney, Courmayeur, Italy, was proved on the 23rd ult. The value of the personal estate amounting to over £30,000. The testator bequeaths £1,000 to Dr. Michael Foster, Praeceptor in Physiology at Trinity College, Cambridge, to be applied by him in the promotion and encouragement of the Study of Physiology.

Selwyn College, Cambridge, was formally opened last October, when the Bishop of Ely installed the Hon. and Rev. Arthur Temple Lyttleton, M.A. (Trinity College, Cambridge), as Master. A luncheon was afterwards held in the temporary hall. The college has been founded to perpetuate the noble name and labours of the late Bishop of Lichfield, and includes provision for the education of the sons of clergymen and others, to fill posts of missionary work whether at home or abroad. The present block of buildings will accommodate sixty-four students, and thirty will be in residence this term. The expenses incurred amount to £33,000.

Presiding at the opening meeting of the winter session of Liverpool University College last Saturday, Lord Derby remarked on the difference between the functions of it and London University—the one seeking to test knowledge, the other to impart it. Speaking of medical science, his Lordship said we now lived longer than our ancestors, and lived more intensely, which was mainly the result of a better study and the laws of health. Mr. Matthew Arnold gave the introductory address, the main feature of which was to insist on the advisability and importance of good middle-class schools. He urged that the State might make some such provision for these schools as was made in Germany.—*Ill. London News.*

In an editorial in one of our leading college journals last month, we were surprised to see the expression "the more preferable way" used. Probably the writer was labouring under excitement at the time.

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

President Porter, of Yale, announces himself as opposed to the lecture system of education—at least early in the college course.

The Johns Hopkins University conducts five journals devoted to original investigation in various fields.

Our friend the *Wolleston Gazette* seems to be getting into general trouble on account of its pugnacious criticisms. Some spiteful people might wish to remind the editors of an old proverb about people that live in glass houses, but then these people must not forget that criticism is useful for more than one purpose.

Why will *Don Quixote* write so often in the 'Varsity? The editors ought to break through their rules and publish this very eccentric individual's name, for it deserves to be handed down to posterity.

The February number of the *Queen's College Journal* is largely taken up with religious matters.

The *Gazette* is agitating for the establishment of a Faculty of Law in Dalhousie. The Science Faculty has just been abolished, because very few students availed themselves of the course.

We thank the *Argosy* for its kind welcome to us. As the number of our students is largely recruited from the Maritime Provinces, we feel an especial interest in the exchanges which come to us from that part of the world, and in the *Argosy* perhaps not the least. In criticising our editorial on the question of admitting women to McGill, the writer seems to have missed the main point, probably because he forgot that we were dealing with a particular case. We did not mean to contend that we must wait until we arrive at perfection in educating men and then turn our attention to the women. The ground which we took was that in McGill there are several improvements urgently necessary but which cannot be effected from want of funds, and that these ought to be attended to before any large sum was expended in admitting women to the University. These improvements if they were effected would by no means bring us an educational millennium; they would simply place the College abreast of the times. The question unfortunately had to be treated as one of dollars and cents, and we are glad to see by the daily papers that our view of the matter has been adopted by the Corporation of the University.

The handsomeness of our exchanges is perhaps the *King's College Record*. It contains much interesting matter, but we are afraid the exchange editor is not severe enough in his criticisms.

*Rouge et Noir* is a small paper published at long intervals at Trinity College, Toronto. The general appearance of the paper is good, but we think that greater things might be expected from the editorial staff since they must have considerable time to prepare for each issue. It is not a fact that our staff supports literary professors, doctors, and lawyers. There are neither doctors nor lawyers connected with the *Gazette*, while the insinuation that there are too many cooks does not, we are sorry to say, apply in the least. The writer's experience in College journalism is probably small, else he would not have fallen into this mistake.

We have received the following:—*The Portfolio, St. Mary's College Journal* (2), *The Acadia Athenaeum, The Dartmouth* (2), *The Dalhousie Gazette, Ada Victoriana, The Wolleston Gazette, Educational Record, Varsity* (4), *L'Étincelle, Catalogue of the University of Vermont, The Queen's College Journal, The Argosy, King's College Record, Rouge et Noir, Morrin College Review, Astrum Alberti, Harvard Advocate.*

## Between the Lectures.

A TRAGEDY.

A cat,  
On wall,  
Brickbat.—  
That's all.

A young man who keeps a collection of locks of hair of his lady friends, calls them his hair-breadth escapes.

An amateur editor has made a fortune by his pen. His father died of grief after reading one of his editorials, and left him \$50,000.

Over the garden wall,  
Apple trees big and tall,  
No apples as yet so hard to get,  
And you may bet,  
I'll never forget  
That night the dog on me was set,  
Over the garden wall.

—*Madisonensis.*

"*Les Passages de Venus.*"—A Jocosse Frenchman has published the first number of a new astronomical journal under the above title. The journal explains the method of observing the transit, and was sold about the streets of Paris for 1 sou. The next number will appear June 8th, 2004.—*Argosy.*

"Talking of Sidney Smith's cool idea of 'taking off his flesh and sitting in

his bones,' as being the highest degree of comfort on a hot day—I can do better than that," said old Floppertop. "Impossible! How?" "Why," said Floppertop gravely, 'I'd knock the marrow out, and have a draught through."

Song of the Salvation Army:

"If you can't get in at the golden gate,  
Get over the garden wall."

With regard to Problem VI. which we gave in our last, the subject of which was a man flying from a bull, one of our mathematical men writes to suggest that the curve described by the man and the bull was a *curve of pursuit*. After several hours study of mathematical books which may be found in the library by any of our readers who may be desirous of following the matter up, the joke became apparent to us.

McMeekin's name will be absent from these columns—on its holidays during the rest of the term.—Much obliged Mac'.

One or two of the finals wanted their photos' taken, "swinging on a cobweb," (à la Fairy Queen), but as Notman was just out of the necessary cobweb, they had to content themselves with the regulation dislocation—into—the obturator foramen—position and the after-ether smile.

#### THE PUN ESCAPES.

St. Patrick of old, in destroying the snakes  
Which infested the soil of the Emerald Isle,  
Left uninjured a thing that more horror awakes,  
That's more terribly feared and more horribly vile.  
And what was it? you ask, with a faltering voice,  
How left old St. Patrick his mission undone?  
Alas! my good friend, he could have but one choice,  
'Twas the reptile he never could harm, 'twas the Pun.

Cool your tea with a spoonful of sorbet. "See that Smythe?"

Imagine the electrical effect of the following sentence, delivered with calm severity and accompanied by a graceful wave of the hand, on the dormant mind of the average law student. "Gentlemen, when the armies of conflicting nations stand range for battle, the mask of civilization drops and each man returns to the garb of his primitive barbarism."

NOTICE TO THE TRADE.—Through the liberality of Professor B—, the librarian of McGill College will be able to dispose, at a nominal price, of a valuable work, showing the most recent 'cuttings' and latest patterns of London and Paris fashions. It has been specially ordered for the purpose and tenders are requested.

The Montreal School of Art and Design, open to ladies, will give a young girl a few "wrinkles" long before they are required.

Our waste basket last month was—A Vale of Tears.

#### APROPOS OF FASHIONABLE TROUSERS.

There was a young fellow from Sligo,  
Laid up with acute interigo.  
He looked at his new breeches,  
Then took out some stitches,  
And said *Ha: est fons et origo*.

"Can it be true," said a lady friend to Miss —, one of the Kingston lady students, "that you have actually dissected a man?" "Oh, yes," was the reply. "but it was an old man."—*Canada Medical and Surgical Journal*.

We regret that J. G.'s nursery rime, "Under the Mistletoe," was received too late for competition for the prize offered by this journal. Final men in Medicine can readily imagine the poetical force he would bring to bear on the above subject. It would undoubtedly have taken the 1 to 40 had it arrived in time.

NOTE.—The subject of the enigma which appeared in our last was a postage stamp.

#### DELUDED PEOPLE THINK

That the students have access to the Medical library.  
That the Nervous System is an easy subject.  
That there are comfortable seats in the Medical Building.  
That there are not many preparations of opium  
That there is no Ammoniacal decomposition in the medical lavatory.  
That the Primaries are not working hard.  
That the present Primaries will work hard next year.  
That there is scented soap in the dissecting room.  
That there is a comfortable waiting-room in the medical building.  
That there is an efficient janitor for the medical building.  
That our postal delivery is perfectly safe.  
That "the chicken" will soon take his degree.  
That Wellington wouldn't touch beer.  
That M. does not ramble in his lectures.  
That Leyden Jar should be spelt Latent Gar.  
That Moses V. is a born poet.

#### EXAMINATION PAPERS FOR THE DEGREE OF M.D., C.M.

Some questions which might be asked a little later on in the month.

#### PRIMARY SUBJECTS.

##### Anatomy.

1. How many toes are there on each foot?
2. What goes through the *Foramen Magnum*?
3. Correct the spelling of the following words: Condoile, Jeenial, Arettenoid.

##### Materia Medica.

1. Give the contra-indications for the colorless non-crystallizable alkaloids obtained from plants whose habitat is over 7,253 feet above sea level.
2. Describe minutely the action of an overdose of Unguentum Hydrargyri upon the Pediculus.
3. Under what circumstances would the following prescription prove most efficacious:

**R** Pulv. Myristacæ gr. iii.  
Cort. Limonis gr. x.  
Succ. Limonis f 3 i.  
Spiritus Frumenti f 3 iii.  
Aquæ Ferventis ad f 3 vi.  
Misce et Adde.  
Sacchæ. All ad lib.  
Fiat Haustus Stاتم Sumendus.

##### Physiology.

1. The Head.
2. Bilirubin.
3. Vis Vitæ.

##### Chemistry.

1. What is the color of white Precipitate? Why?
2. How many pounds of Fe S and H<sub>2</sub> S O<sub>4</sub> are required to empty by upward displacement, a lecture room whose atmosphere is saturated with Surgery? How would you conduct the experiment?
3. How many times can a man smile before his Gravity becomes Specific?

##### Practical Anatomy.

1. Which side does this Stapes belong to?
2. Shew me the surface marking for the Jejunum.
3. Describe the structures cut, in a section made from the lobe of the right ear to the middle third of the 4th metacarpal bone of the left foot, the left leg being strongly abducted and flexed.

#### Personals.

Robert Logan, M.D., who received his degree here in '80, has passed the examination for the M.R.C.S., Eng.

James A. Grant, B.A., M.D., ('82), has passed the L.R.C.P., Lond. We tender him our congratulations.

Louis Robitaille, M.D., ('60), brother of Dr. Robitaille, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, has been appointed a Dominion Senator.

Tupper, '71, is son of the Minister of Railways.

McFee, '80, and Coutlee '73, are practising hard in Winnipeg.

Wellwood, '78, is pastor of a thriving church in Minnedosa, Manitoba.

McFadyan, '78, has received a call to the Congregational Church in Kingston, Ont.

Donald, '78, Tucker, '81, Morin, '82, are doing excellent work in the city schools.

Taylor, Rev. G. M., '75, is acting Principal of the St. James College, Richmond.

Church, Hon. L. R., '57, Medicine, has permanently settled in this city. From his position, experience and interest in the College, he would be a valuable addition to the governing bodies of the University.

Kennedy, B. S., '73, has been appointed Prof. of Nat. Science in King's College, N.S., in place of Spencer '74. Prof. of Geology in the University of Missouri.

Bell, C. E., '61, of the Geological Survey, has been investigating this season in the MacKenzie River Region.

Greenshields, '69, and Greenshields '74, now compose the firm of S. Greenshields, Son & Co., so long and favourably known in the dry-goods trade.

Davidson, '64, and Doherty, '76, are members of the Royal Commission which is enquiring into the management of the schools of Montreal.

Graham, B. C. L., '78, is manager of the Williams Manufacturing Co.

Hicks, '64, is recruiting in the Southern States.

Morie, '79, who married one of the belles of the city during the Xmas holidays, has a large and lucrative practice in Detroit, Mich.

## Correspondence.

To the Editors of the MCGILL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIRS,

I should like to bring before the Faculties of Arts and Applied Science as well as the students of the same, the obtrusive fact that the present system of wearing gowns is by no means a desirable one. I am surprised that the students have not hitherto spoken on this subject through the GAZETTE. But many have the faculty—sometimes fortunately for them—of readily becoming accustomed to an inconvenient custom; evidently it has been so with this of wearing gowns. To the Freshman it is as disagreeable as it is new; but not being in a position to dispute the regulation, he accepts the inevitable, gets his gown, and carries about at any rate, a lighter purse. In the succeeding years he wears one because he has it, and if toward the end of his course he gives a thought to the absurdity of the custom, "There's no use bothering about it now." To the students, therefore, I would like to present the case as it presents itself to me, fully confident that if they consider a moment, they will agree with me; to the Faculties also, judging that as they have shown themselves by no means slow to move in a desirable direction, attention has only to be called to it to have the regulation erased from the books.

First then, it seems to me to be *useless*. We can imagine cases in which it might be of service. If it were worn on the streets, it *might*, as the sign of a student, be an aid to discipline, but it is not. If different gowns, as different uniforms among the different regiments of an army, were worn by different classes, there *might* be a desirable imitation fostered. I can see a reason why some preachers in the city wear them, for they make more graceful, perhaps, an ungainly figure, but students are not posing as speakers. A gown is neither brain itself nor brain stimulant; it hinders rather than helps one in taking lectures; Molson Hall loses none of its terrors when we are armed with a gown: in fact or seriously, turn where I will, I fail to find any imaginable use for it.

I know that just here it might be urged that there are some things which, though not of practical use, we are glad to retain, because of the inspiring associations which gather around them; and some grand talking might be indulged in, about the *esprit de corps* that gowns foster. But that is no argument. *Esprit de corps* can flourish outside the ægis of a gown. Medical students are gownless, and we never doubt their *esprit de corps*.

There is another and very practical objection—they are an expense. A gown costs from three to six dollars, not a great sum indeed, but very few come to McGill who have overflowing pockets. It is well for her that most of her sons earn the very money which supports them during their course. We cannot wonder, therefore, that such grumble at paying six dollars for what is worth nothing to them.

I have heard but a few days since, that some years ago the decision of "gown or no gown," was in the hands of the students and they voted to retain it. We do not bless them for doing so, and I feel assured if the Faculties were to give the same opportunity to the present students, they would heartily say, what I humbly maintain, that the

"GOWN MUST GO."

[We disagree entirely with the substance of this letter. We had imagined that this worn out question had been settled once and forever, as far as McGill is concerned. We do not think that the writer will succeed in getting up an agitation on the subject, and we are confident that the former decision of the students would be almost unanimously upheld were another vote taken.—Eds.]

## Poetry.

TO A LADY.

Beloved friend, I weep because your heart I've grieved,  
I called you "soft." What then, was I deceived?  
Should I have said you're made of stone, you're stiff and cold?  
These names sound better, but a lie I should have told.

Kind soul, I pray you now my hardness forgive;  
I'll reverence, love, and trust you while I live, but  
Believe me, if you can, that this it was I meant,  
At once to tell the truth and pay a compliment.

LUTTON.

## THE LOS' OF THE "ASIA."

SEPT. 1882.

The autumn day was fair and bright,  
No gloomy cloud obscured the light;  
The deep, blue lake was calm and still,  
No evil omen boded ill,  
As in the port the "Asia" lay,  
Prepared to cross the Georgian Bay.

The wind sprang up and whistled shrill,  
The sail of many a bark to fill.  
White-crested waves played to and fro,  
Which only seemed the more to throw  
A glimmering beauty on the sight.  
So soon to fade in darkest night.

The fated vessel, deep with freight,  
Steamed outward to the harbour gate;  
Four score and more warm, beating hearts,  
Upon her decks, with playful arts  
Waved fond farewells, with mirthful glee,  
To friends they never more might see.

They little thought, as forth they sped—  
The happy bride but newly wed:  
The prattling babe all pure and bright:  
The age I sire so wintry white:  
That soon, O soon! the wild, wild waves  
Would roll above their lonely graves.

O! could they know that, never more  
They'd tread with friends the peaceful shore:  
Nor loved ones clasp in warm embrace,  
At home, that hallowed, sacred place:  
Nor meet again, where praise is given  
To Him who rules in Earth and Heaven.

How oft we think—had we but known,  
Or could we see what, God alone  
Holds in His hand; we'd happy be:  
Our steps we'd guard; from care be free.  
Futurity we cannot tell;  
Our God knows best, it must be well.

The fated ship rides on in pride,  
Far out upon the waters wide,  
The storm king shrieks and stirs the deep;  
The billows roll, and foam, and leap,  
Grim Death strides forth; his scythe is seen;  
A ripe, rich harvest he will glean.

The vessel plunges in the main;  
She rights; she rolls; she rights again.  
The helm, strong hands hold with a will.  
A brave, great heart commands with skill,  
A gleam of hope breaks on them soon—  
The storm may cease before 'tis noon.

Vain hope! the gale returns with strength;  
And fury spent, bursts forth at length.  
The angry waves roll high and wide,  
And plunge the ship beneath the tide.  
They gather all their force and might;  
And quench, like wind, a spark of light.

O cruel winds! O fierce wild waves!  
Ye've filled with dear ones, many a grave.  
In vain we weep, in vain we sigh;  
Ye never deign to hear our cry:  
One voice ye'll heed—a voice of dread:  
'Tis God will speak: "Give up thy dead!"

"OTHO SCRIBBLERUS."



**List of New Books Received.***(From 22d January, 1883.)*

United States.—Report of the Chief Signal officer.—1880  
 Hannam.—Elemente der Mineralogie.  
 Dublin University Calendar.—1883.  
 The Primary Triangulation of the United States Lake Survey.  
 Monk.—An introduction to Logic.  
 Oasey.—A Sequel to the First 6 Books of Euclid.  
 Griffin.—The Parabola, Eclipse and Hyperbola.  
 Burnside & Panton.—Theory of Equations.  
 Dowden.—The Correspondence of Southey & Caroline Bowles.  
 McCullagh.—Collected works of.  
 Leslie.—Essays on Moral & Political Philosophy.  
 Cicero, Correspondence of—by R. Y. Tyrrell.  
 Haughton.—Six Lectures on Physical Geography.  
 Webb.—Faust, from the German of Goethe.  
 Hamilton (Sir Wm. Rowan), The Life of—by Graves.  
 Macalister.—An Introduction to Systematic Zoology.  
 Plato, The Parmenides of—by T. Maguire.  
 The Codex Rescriptus Dublinensis.—St. Matthew's Gospel.  
 Neues Jahrbuch.—Mineralogie, Zoologie and Paleontologie.  
 Fouquet et Levy.—Mineralogie Micrographique.

Voyage, H.M.S. "Challenger."—Zoology—5 volumes.  
 Do. do. do. Narrative—1 volume.  
 Financial Reform Almanack—1883.—"Cobden Club."  
 Colonial History of New York State.—Vols. XII & XIII.  
 Natural History of New York.—Paleontology—Vol. V, 2 parts.  
 Cartwright.—Cases decided on the B. N. American Act—1867.  
 Library, February 20th, 1883.

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