THE

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THE MORRIN COLLEGE REVIEW.

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The Editors trust to receive an early remittance of subscriptions which are due strictly *in advance*. Notices of irregularity in the delivery of the paper will be at once attended to.

We direct the special attention of our readers, to the letter of "Diogenes" which appears in this issue. It deals with a practicable and very important matter. There is no doubt but that the system of education in this Province *can* be improved, and *should* be improved, particularly in the rural districts. We think "Diogenes" suggests a practicable improvement and we hope his letter will lead to some expression of opinion on the matter. Our columns are open to any discussion that has to do with the advancement of education.

We leave it to our newspaper proprietors to say to what extent the frequent wretched spelling in some otherwise distinguished journals is attributable to underpaid and overworked readers. It is, at any rate, a melancholy characteristic of the Canadian literature. It is actually vitiating the language in some points, and schoolmasters might do worse than to instructs their spelling classes, especially, in such distinctions as "affect" and "effect", the separate import of which is getting to be almost lost amongst us. The errors of the "Chronicle" text, were unfortunately, from omission of the reading, imported into our friend Hemming's letter in last issue of the "Review." Our big brother of the press will doubtless not take offence at this gentle reminder.

"Churchman's" "contempt" (for bigotry) was printed "attempt" by the *Chronicle* and thus repeated in the *Review*, but the writer had no intention of being rude to our episcopal defender.

FREE LIBRARIES.

A matter which has been interesting the public minds for some little time past, and which has brought out some difference of opinion is the formation of Free Libraries in our Canadian Cities, Toronto having taken the initiative, Montreal has followed suit, and we can see no reason why Quebec should not interest herself as well as the others. It is unnecessary to enumerate the many advantages which we, perhaps more than some other Canadian cities, situated as we are, would derive from an enterprise of this kind. In connection with the Free Libraries already established, petitions have been sent to the Dominion Legislature asking that at least two copies of any foreign publication should be allowed to pass the customs free. The least the Government can do if they have any desire to foster enterprises of this description is to concede to these demands, that is if they are not yet prepared to grant what has now become a popular cry, *viz*, FREE BOOKS.

BOOKS.

To pick a man's pocket, is generally considered rather a small thing for one to do, and to pick a man's brains cannot be much bigger. The Law says, that a man has a right to his *thoughts* as well as to his *money*, and so forbids the reprinting in any shape of a book written by either man or woman, that the writer may receive the whole pecuniary profit that may result from his labor. But what shall we say of a government, that becomes a very "Fagin" in this line, for the sake of a few dollars a year? Yet this is what our own Canadian Government has been doing for some time. It allows a Canadian publisher to reprint here any book written by an American writter, that our community may get the benefit of his thoughts, and lays no tax on such reprint. It thus practically encourages our people to steal, and then, goes into the plunder game itself, and when that writer sends in a single American copy of his book, it insists on a "divide" of the profits, and makes the poor author pay it so much per copy. In other words, it picks that poor fellow's purse of part of his hard won earnings and *pockets the amount.* This it does under pretence of "Protecting" and thus "encouraging," our native talent! If it really meant to do that, the money thus collected would be regarded as a special fund for the developement of Canadian writers, say, given as a special contribution in aid of some branch of popular Education. As, however, this money simply goes into the common purse of the Dominion, the Government, in levying this tax, is merely plundering the author,—who is forced to share with the Government, the profits of his writing, and also plundering the writer, who has to pay in the end all the duties and charges that have to be met before the book can reach him.

A movement is being made at present, to get our Finance Minister to allow books intended for Public Libraries and Colleges in free of duty. Such a movement is marvellously contemptible. It is, as if these corporations thought only of themselves, and provided they can get what they want, do not care about the mass of the people.

The whole amount collected is so trifling that the Government with its immense surplus, can easily afford to abolish all duties, and since the Publishers and Booksellers in Toronto, have moved on *this* line, being satisfied that the free admission would tend to increase their business, we go in for their movement, and say as we have said repeatedly,—LET US HAVE CHEAP BOOKS.

THE RAILWAYS.

The tone of hope long deferred in which the question of safety on Railways is treated by such leading papers as the London *Spectator* and *Saturday Review* is very remarkable—and this arises from a sense of the immense social power of the great Railway Companies, who will consent to nothing in the way of improvement that will be likely to add to their expenses, and even will with a cruel cynicism, set the costs of compensation for injury against outlays to prevent accident—and take what seems at the time to be the least.

These are the social traits that will shock posterity when it comes to read the history of our time—and those readers will certainly contrast them with the immense pretensions to practical benevolence which the age makes. The very men who act in this way can be benevolent in other things—why then do they act thus? Because they have cast their thoughts into the monetary mould so skilfully prepared for them by the economists of a century past. They will only look at this most serious matter for a modern state and for society from a monetary point of view. PLUTONOMY is the word that best expresses this state of the mind—all honor to the man who coined the word thirty years ago. The monetary view will be right enough, in certain committees of the thinking powers—if I may so express it. But it is wrong—altogether wrong—to bring money into competition with the public safety. And it is really as wrong, economically as it is in morals. Destruction of all kinds transmits a deep constitutional infection. Its effects spread to the right and left and over the long future—what shall be said of Railway managers and shareholding bodies who will thus allow their fellow citizens to be ruined and killed through their breach of contract? It is just a breach of contract and nothing else—for they stand bound to carry their clients safely from

point to point, and not to allow their own servants, or other subjects of the Queen, or strangers, to be run over or crushed in doing so. It is their plain business to take the required means for these purposes. But if they refuse to do so, who is there to compel them, except the state - the general government of the country under free institutions? And cannot the state enforce the right courses with ease, when the constituencies are happily imbued with common sense? At such times, the words of the expert in construction and traffic will be listened to. How surprisingly he is commonly kept in the back ground, as a sort of amateur! But, as a late writer has told us, if the state persists in neglecting to control the Railways the Railways will control the state.

Rev. D. V. Lucas, of Montreal, has interested himself in this most vital movement. Will he and others get petitions prepared for presentation to the Legislature?

The *Witness*, *Star* and other popular journals understand the bearings of this question. They cannot continue supine in the presence of such an issue—These *martyrdoms* are out of place in this highly appreciated 19th century.

The London *Money Market Review* has been favoring our great Pacific Railway Enterprise with a pleasant little *hunt*—much as you catch beavers. As the Company have secured their capital for all next year's operations, perhaps it does not so much matter. But according to the logic of the schools, the enterprise ought not to be made out to be a poor one just because the Company, wisely or otherwise, have been setting themselves in a certain antagonism to the Grand Trunk.

It is the shortest line across the northern continent, and may just as well be treated as a great route for the Through Traffic of the world as be spoken of merely as a Colonization line, which has always been the practice of its detractors.

It should be the hope and prayer of every true Canadian and humane man that Mr. Dalton McCarthy's Bill may become the means of bringing to an end the shocking slaughters on Canadian Railways of the public through level crossings and uncleared lines, and of the Companies' servants through absence and self-coppling arrangements for the cars – and irregularities in the make up of trains.

The subject debated Friday evening 2nd instant was: "Which should be the more encouraged by government the manufacturer or the agriculturist."

Mr. Mackie, leader on the affirmative, discussing the subject in its political aspect upheld his side by referring to the different ways of supporting the manufacturer,—by subsidies, by a tariff preventing manufactured articles coming in from other countries, and by exemptions from taxation. Referring to the policy of England, when aiding manufacture, shewed that the country was more prosperous at that time than when aiding agriculture. Viewing the Northern part of the United States he pointed out its improvements as derived from manufacture, while the Southern part, largely given to the cultivation of cotton, was lagging behind with few marks of improvements. He showed the necessity of encouraging manufacture, —to make implements to lessen the labour of the farmers—to build up the country—to protect the machinist and all the different branches of manufacture until they have obtained sufficient strength and resources of their own. This support could be given by government levying a tax on manufactured articles imported.

Mr. McConechy, leader of the negative, was next called upon, and as such took an opposite view to the previous speaker. He maintained that the agriculturist should be the more encouraged for the produce of his labours were always in demand and could never be over supplied. The agriculturist is the producer of the raw material for the manufacturer and has done more in opening up the country and for its prosperity than the manufacturer.

It is absolutely necessary to have the soil tilled for from it man derives his maintenance and as such should be the chief object of care.

Discussing the subject from the physical condition of the people, government has something to do with the health of its people, hence the sanitary laws. The agriculturist needs no such laws.

From a moral view, he shewed the high standard of morality in the country as compared with that in places where manufacture is carried on.

Government, by building railroads, has greatly benefitted the farmers and opened up the country. The scheme, which it is now acting upon, of sending out agents to the older countries to induce emigrants to settle in this country, will prove itself to be the very thing the country requires.

Mr. J. Ross, in support of the affirmative, shewed that agriculture was largely carried on in every country and would necessarily continue, and increase with the population, but manufacture was not carried on so extensively and should therefore receive encouragement from government. The encouragement of manufacture by the United States government made the Republic what it is. Reviewing the condition of Ireland, which has agriculture for its chief industry, and England which is chiefly a manufacturing country, he pointed out the depression of the one and the prosperity of the other as coming from their industries.

Mr. E Joly, when called upon was loudly applauded. All were ready to listen to what he had to say, and seemed somewhat disappointed when he remarked that few arguments remained for him. But they were not disappointed, for in a few well cut arguments he placed his side of the question before them in a pleasing manner, shewing that "we are dependant upon the agriculturist for what he produces from the broad bosom of mother earth." Comparing the effect of a failure of manufacture with that of agriculture, clearly shewed that man would return to his primitive occupation of tilling the soil, but if agriculture failed the result would be famine and utter ruin,

Mr. N. Campbell, the last speaker on the affirmative, thought that little remained for him to say, as the previous speakers had dwelt at length on the important points. He was willing to support that which benefits the public in general. Treating the subject in a social point, civil society could not exist without manufacture. From manufacture science and arts are produced After replying to a few of the opposite arguments, he left the subject to the further consideration of the audience.

Mr. Holt, ended the list of speakers for the negative. In a short and plausible speech he showed, that the agriculturist who sowed seed and provided the manufacturer with provision and furnished him with flax, cotton, and raised the sheep from which he gets his wool, was the real support of the manufacturer. Having shown that there was a time when there was no manufacture and that agriculture existed at that time, he treated the audience to a few choice selections from Adam Smith, appropriate to the occasion and strongly in favour of encouraging agriculture.

Mr. McConechy, followed by Mr. Mackie summed up for their respective sides in short but forcible speeches. Many of the audience impatient with the lateness of the hour did not wait for the ballot box to pass around.

The votes cast were -7 for affirmative, and 30 for negative.

A private debate was held in the large class-room, on the evening of Friday the 9th inst. The subject discussed was "Which is the more honorable profession, Law, or Medicine." The speakers on the affirmative were Messrs. W. C. Ross, H. Woods and D. Fraser, on the negative Messrs. H. Campbell, W. Home and H. J. Silver. The several speakers discussed the question from their own stand points, some of them getting a little mixed up in their remarks, while others were clear and to the point. On the whole the question was well discussed and showed that among the junior students there is being developed good debating talent.

The arguments were summed up by the chairman, and the decision given in favor of the negative, (medicine.)

To the Editors of the Morrin College Review.

Gentlemen,

As your journal has presumably for its main object, the discussion, and, if possible, the amelioration of our educational system, permit me, through your columns to direct public attention to a subject which is, in my humble opinion at least, of vital importance to the rising generation of Quebec. I refer to our school system. Now what is our school system? We have a number of private schools which are doing noble work; we have a certain number of schools (7) under the control of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners of the City of Quebec; we have that old and deservedly honoured institution the Quebec High School; and we have Morrin College,—(I am dealing exclusively with Protestant institutions.)

As to the first of these (the Private Academies) I have nothing to say;-they belong to private individuals, and are patronized by the denizens of "*Upper-ten.dom*," whilst I wish to direct attention to the schools which are supported by the taxes of the people, managed by representatives of the people, and for the benefit of the whole people, from the highest to the lowest.

As I fear that my article may be too lengthy for your columns, I shall merely outline my ideas, hoping with your permission, to deal more minutely with the subject in future numbers.

1st. Let the dux of each Elementary school be determined by the Principal,; *not on the results of a final examination*, where coolness and "brass" may make a triumphant show, while shrinking merit may *appear* to fail;—but on the basis of *punctuality of attendance, propriety of conduct*, and *daily successful struggle with the difficulties encountered.*

2nd. Let such dux be admitted to the higher institutions *free*;—not as a pauper but as one of the "Yellow Hammers" of nature's nobility.

3rd. Let him be admitted, on the same terms, to the classes of the Morrin College, which qualify for the Academic degree of B.A. from the University of McGill.

4th. Let him, thus equipped, go forth to fight the battle of life;—and, *God be with him!*

Apologizing for the length of this article, I remain

Your obedient servant,

DIOGENES.

George Macdonald M.A., LL.D., as well as a preacher is a celebrated novelist. It is not often that a novelist of the present day appears in the pulpit of any of our dissenting chapels. The majority of novel writers do not consider the pulpit their legitimate place possibly because few have ever entertained the idea of religious public speaking; but more possibly because the popular feeling attached to novel writers is not akin to pulpit moralizing, novel writers as a rule go with the world. They do enough by writing to teach men their respective ideas; but preaching is too sentimental for one reason and far too much open to criticism for another.

MR. JACK FROST.

Jack Frost is working wonderfully hard this winter. Early in the month of February he completed his work of bridging the St. Lawrence river, and so provided us with a good crossing. But as the river is long and wide at many places, he had to hurry from one place to another, so as to accommodate every city or village which has commercial connections or friendly intercourse with its opposite neighbour. When Jack had completed his work for many miles up the river in the most popular places, he made a hasty visit to the place from which he started to inspect carefully his previous work, lest some of Adam's sons, while rambling in search of pleasure, or intent on the active pursuits of business, or crossing on educational purposes, might find themselves splashing in the water under the bridge, with Jack and his bridge over their heads. The old gentleman, being up the river for a great distance, in his haste, to return, left off following the course of the river, cutting across promontories and inlets, over the plains of Abraham, made a direct course for the Skating Rink to inspect the work which he had done in the early part of winter. Having found it in a firm and glassy condition, meeting his approbation as well as the object he had in view when he formed it,

he proceeded on his journey, crossing the Esplanade soon found his course obstructed by the narrow space allowed him on St. John street, but onward he sped taking advantage of the widest streets until he found himself happily treading St. Peter street without any mud splashing around him. He remembered how difficult had been his task to congeal the liquid mud, and was about to stop and congratulate himself on his past success, when he remembered that he had set out for Queen's wharf, where he would get a good sight of the bridge he was about to inspect Jack was not a little surprised, when he reached the wharf, at finding that his bridge had become disjointed and had separated from three to twelve feet directly across. He was not however disheartened; he set to work with a will and soon had it spliced and rivited more firmly than ever. It is not unjust to say that Jack did not pronounce his bridge safe for several days after he had constructed it, hence he is free from all blame and law suits for the white horse that went through the bridge, at a weak spot, and remained bathing too long in the water and was afterwards seen in a lifeless form lying on the bridge. He gave sufficient warning and proof of the insufficiency of his work, as to warn the more intellectual beings to avoid it, for a time, as dangerous. The benefits which Jack has given to our citizens are inestimable. When he allowed the Ferry boats to cross, the revenue was confined to a few individuals, but now many obtain a share of it: and others who were compelled to pay their passage across, or remain where they were, can now cross when they wish either by a payable or free passage He has extended the field of pleasure for the sportive and gay; the ring of the skater and his merry voice is heard in place of the yawning billows. The school boy too with lithesome steps finds ample room to exercise himself by sliding. Though Jack won't allow the steam boats to take a pleasure trip at present, he has not strictly forbidden the use of boats, but simply gave place to another kind, thence we have *ice-boats*, or boats that rest on three skates and supplied with canvas sails, which, when spread before a brisk wind are driven over the ice with great rapidity, often at the rate of a mile a minute. We may also consider him a benefactor of those who keep fast trotting horses, as he provides them with a lengthy course. There, in a straight direction, with a plane surface, with no perceptible ascent or descent, they may contend for the highest prize and obtain it with greater ease than on the dusty circuit course. But his good deeds do not end here, neither are they confined to a few individuals, nor do they end with the spring months. Often when the summer's sun is sending forth his most powerful rays, man-suffering from his intense heat—is relieved by a cooling draught of *ice* water. The fevered brow is soothed by its influence, and the social party is delighted with the dainty it gives in the form of *ice* cream.

Jack, perhaps, is said to be idle. But that is not true. For although he stays with us only seven months of the year,—then yielding to the warm rays of Pater Sol, he works earnestly and systematically while here. Early and late he is found sealing faster and faster the drops in the water bucket or the icicle to the eaves of the houses. And when Pater Sol comes to set up his reign for the summer, Jack, without quarrelling with him, kindly bids us adieu and off to his kingdom he goes.

He loves to speak of his *ice* bound kingdom,
With atmosphere so pure and sweet,
High up in the North pole region enthroned,
Majestically he sits on his icy seat.

He fears no heights and dreads no depths,
He lives for good not glory,
He labours hard his work to do,
He makes our beards all hoary.

Perhaps every person will enquire, where is Jack now?

Let it suffice the inquiring mind to know that he is attending to his duties in another place, and will soon revisit our city and his bridge. What time he will come we cannot now state, but for the preservation of many of our citizens, we would suggest that he come on Monday and leave by Saturday night. Should he remain for Sunday, he would be filled with indignation at the corruption practiced on his fair work The bridge which he gave to lessen the expense of crossing, soon after his departure, was turned into a money making affair.

Slides have been put up, on which boys can slide on Sunday by paying the same as on week days, and there they are found by scores. But Jack would excuse them for they are boys, and their parents may not have taught them better. If he should look to the right

he would see young men trying their *luck* at the *wheel of fortune* and other gambling concerns; and still further, would see a large crowd of well dressed folks who are looking on to see the fun. Jack, surprised at the sight, would exclaim in audible voice, *Why the churches have given a holiday to day*! Ah no! Jack, these are pleasure seekers.

But how great will be his indignation when he observes near this crowd, a *shanty*, put there to cover and protect that which its occupant deals out, not for the benefit of the people, but for his own gain.

If rage gives utterance to prayers, Jack will invoke the *powers that be* to sink them beneath his bridge with all their corruption.

Then calling upon the City *Authorities* will enquire, *Are there not laws in your land to prevent such Sabbath desecration?*

TEACHER'S PENSION FUND.

The Protestant Teachers of this city, have lately had under consideration, the reported intention of the Government to repeal the Act called the "Pension Act in favour of Teachers," passed in 1880.

By this Act, an allowance is guaranteed Teachers, on certain conditions and after having taught a certain number of years, if disabled by reason of ill health. At the age of 60 years the Teacher may retire, if he choose, from the profession, altogether.

By the repeal of this Act, the Government deprives the Teacher of the provision which the law now provides and leaves him, in his disability or old age to plod his weary way whithersoever he will.

The Teachers, of course, strongly oppose the repeal of this act but approve its amendment.

What seems to have struck them with astonishment however, is the hasty and inconsiderate action of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, by which that body endorsed the Government's scheme and strengthened its intention (the very opposite of what the Roman Catholic Committee did) without the promise of an equivalent or a substitute.

The Teachers, we understand, have memorialized the Protestant Committee to reconsider their action—which memorial we hope will not be presented *pro forma*—ordered to be *read* and then *requiescat in pace*.

We have heard a rumor, that the sympathies of the Protestant Committee have been sought and obtained, by representations made them, by a Parliamentary delegation—who felt no compunction not long since, in augmenting their own and other member's allowances by a pretty fair fraction of the original unit—to the effect that a few aged Teachers (whose emoluments, by the way, have been very good) would be placed on the civil service list, for pensions; and also that the committee, in their turn, made strong appeals in favour of another or others for a like privilege, and let the others, who have taught as long and as faithfully, and whose salaries have been but small, compared with theirs, be shelved. This seems to us unfair and unjust.

It is our happy duty to join with the numerous friends of our venerable and esteemed Professor, the Rev. W. B. Clarke, in congratulating him on the thirtieth anniversary of his call to the pulpit of Chalmers Church in this city.

He arrived in Quebec in the month of March 1853 and in the same month commenced his arduous duties as pastor of that church which charge he continued to hold till the time of his resignation some eight years ago.

The ladies of the congregation in honor of the occasion celebrated his thirtieth anniversary by holding a social gathering of the friends and members of the congregation when choruses were sung, refreshments served, and speeches delivered by ministers of several of the sister churches. But the principal feature of the evening was the presentation made to him of his photograph handsomely framed by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Mathews in behalf of the ladies of the congregation.

COLLEGE ITEMS.

The Alma Mater Society purpose celebrating their annual reunion this year with a supper, to be held in the college. A full report will be given in our next issue.

All members of the Alma Mater are expected to be present. Tickets can be had from the treasurer.

It will take place on the 22nd inst.

Several of our subscribers have not yet paid their subscription we hope they will do so without delay.

Mr. J. D. Fergusson has been confined to the house for two weeks from sickness. We are glad to know that he is recovering and will we trust soon be out again.

The student who does not rip, when a trick is played upon him, deserves honorable mention. We have that student.

"Home Home sweet Home."

Why are there not more students at Morrin College? Go down to Lower Town if you want to know.

We hear that one of our promising second year men is being terribly worked up by some hidden influence across the river. As he is not the first to have felt this mysterious power an investigation would not be out of place. It is perhaps unnecessary to remind the interested parties that the exams. are coming on and that any new complications especially in the direction in which they seem to have directed their attention, will seriously detract from their chances of making a good pass.

An interested undergraduate says the best way to retain a young lady's affections is not to return them.

The members of the Debating Society are complaining, and perhaps justly enough; that other meetings which are held in the College Hall, are placed on the same nights as the debates. The Debating Society has been in existence for five years and its constitution provides that it shall hold a meeting every Friday evening. As this is a well known fact, cannot anything which would lead to unpleasant feelings be avoided?

There is a young man in our College,
Who has considerable knowledge;
But I do declare,
It makes them all stare;
To see his rude manners, so *pic*-uous;
And his punctuality so dubious.

Speaking of the late George Mason, Artist, the *Spectator* says: "He has been blamed for making his children too idyllic, for giving too much classical grace to their movements; but after all what we call classic grace is nothing but the beauty that comes from a healthy body. The Greeks were not taught to turn their toes out, or anything of that sort by an Athenian D'Egville."

The class in Art, which has been opened under the supervision of Mr. Pilkington who is connected with the government works on the Princess Louise embankment—is succeeding even better than might have been expected. The number attending it is somewhat over *forty*, of whom the greater part are ladies. There is a splendid opening for a few more of our young men. Dont allow the question of co-education to keep them away.

In Germany nearly every lawn has its botanical garden for furnishing means of instruction in this science, Berlin has two the larger of which supplies 120 institutions of learning including 109 common schools requiring nearly 3,000,000 specimens.

Not quite 9 per cent of the population of Scotland can speak Gallic.

When Oscar Wilde saw Niagara Falls he exclaimed "Bulk but no beauty" When a little Detroit boy first saw the sublime cataract he solemnly whispered "Mamma I feel like taking my hat off to God." That is the difference between embryo idiocy and embryo manhood.—Ex.

Butler's analogy. Prof: "Mr. T. you may pass on to the Future Life" Mr. T.: "Not prepared."—Ex.

Why was Abel the first Scotchman? Because he was the first man who got *kilt*.

The big storm has not made itself felt as although one of its "arms" handled us r severely. The probabilities are that the of this "arm" has completely snowed up the great blow itself, so much so that it is now a doubtful question whether we will feel it all or not.