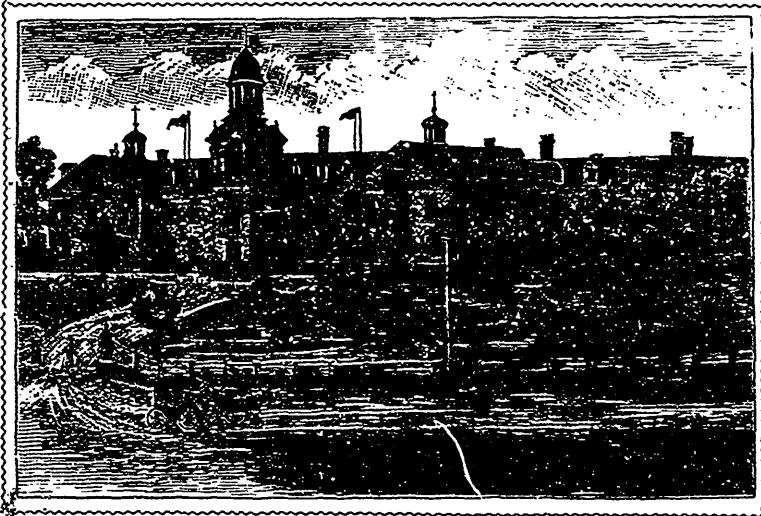


# EXCELSIOR.

FEBRUARY,  
1899.



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N. S.

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fruit and  
Confectionery

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the best in Town, T. V. Sears.

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W B M Isaac

# EXCELSIOR.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY STUDENTS OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE.

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Vol. 3. ANTIGONISH, N. S., FEBRUARY, 1899. No. 6.

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We should not have been much surprised had we received a few calendars for 1899 since the 11th inst., so that we might discover the date. Many of our friends probably concluded that EXCELSIOR had gone up. The fact of the matter was that we were so busy during the month of January at our examinations that EXCELSIOR was neglected. Finally, when copy was ready, the printing office was not. Grip had invaded the printers' domain and laid low some of the lads. More delay ensued from this, but at last we got through all right. We feel that an explanation is due our readers, and we trust this one will prove satisfactory.

How history repeats itself is never better illustrated than in the workings of the Catholic Church and in the preaching of the Gospel among nations. We read in the *Annales de la Propagation de la Foi* a brief account of the massacre of Christians in China, in September of last year. Written by one of the missionaries who has charge of the district, it is a simple, unadorned

tale of suffering and martyrdom. Two missionary-priests and one lay-brother who were quietly performing their tasks and willingly obeying the mandate of the Master, were suddenly and foully murdered, together with a number of their converts. An infuriated mob of Chinese, without reason or provocation, descends suddenly on them while at prayer, and once more the soil of China is moistened with the blood of martyrs. Reading the accounts of such sufferings, we are carried back to the early ages of Christianity. We see the Infant Church of Christ, struggling to attain its end, nourished by the blood of its martyrs. And we hope and pray—aye, we feel confident—that the Church in China will bring forth fruit as abundant as that which sprung from the blood of the early martyrs in the pagan empire of Rome.

---

The evangelization of the Indians in Manitoba is briefly described in a short letter from Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface. In this letter the venerable prelate shows forth the necessity and wants of the poor Indians of the Northwest as well as in the province of Manitoba. Many of those are still pagans, and although a number of priests, who, like Marquette and his companions, have given up all for Christ's sake, labor incessantly for the conversion of these poor souls, yet means to push ahead the good work are lacking. The Indians wish to send their children to Catholic schools and cannot do it. They wish them to be educated by the Catholic priests, but the priests are scarce. Nevertheless, we know that God will find a way. Let us, as Catholics, help the hardy toilers to till the field allotted them by the Master,—help them by our prayers and, when we can, by a little temporal aid.

---

On the twentieth of this month our Holy Father Leo XIII. will have occupied the throne of Peter twenty-one years. Many are the rumors current that his health is failing, but they are always contradicted. His health is, as the latest authentic report has it, excellent for a man of his age. On this anniversary the hearts of Catholics turn towards Rome with love and veneration for the Holy Father, and their prayer will be that God may spare him for many years to come.

## NOW.

Rise ! for the day is passing,  
And you lie dreaming on :  
The others have buckled their armor,  
And forth to the fight are gone :  
A place in the ranks awaits you,  
Each man has some part to play ;  
The Past and the Future are nothing,  
In the face of the stern To-day.

Rise from your dreams of the Future,—  
Of gaining some hard fought field ;  
Of storming some airy fortress,  
Or bidding some giant yield ;  
Your Future has deeds of glory,  
Of honor (God grant it may !)  
But your arm will never be stronger,  
Or the need so great as To-day.

Rise ! if the Past detains you,  
Her sunshine and storms forget ;  
No chains so unworthy to hold you  
As those of a vain regret :  
Sad or bright, she is lifeless ever ;  
Cast her phantom arms away,  
Nor look back, save to learn the lesson  
Of a nobler strife To-day.

Rise ! for the day is passing ;  
The sound that you scarcely hear  
Is the enemy marching to battle :—  
Arise ! for the foe is here !  
Stay not to sharpen your weapons,  
Or the hour will strike at last,  
When from dreams of a coming battle,  
You may wake to find it past !

—*Adelaide A. Proctor.*

## FIN DE SIECLE.

Another year has just been ushered in. Whether with its end another century shall have been completed is a question which has already begun to agitate the minds of men; but not for the first time, for our forefathers of an hundred years ago discussed the same question with as much warmth probably as will be displayed by the present generation.

Southey writes that "they who remember the year 1800 will remember also the great controversy, whether it was the beginning of a century or the end of one, a controversy in which all magazines, all newspapers, and all persons took part;" and we may rest assured that Southey's words will prove equally true of 1900. Speaking in reference to the nature of the discussion which took place, Cardinal Newman tells us "that at the beginning of this century it was a subject of serious, nay, of angry controversy whether it begin with January 1800, or January 1801." But whether the controversy was brief or lengthy; whether it was of a nature angry or pleasant, the fact still remains that the beginning of the 20th century is a question, though decided by high authority yet unproved, and, consequently, debatable. We say *decided* because the Astronomer Royal of Great Britain speaking for the British Empire, has declared that this century will not end before December 31st, 1900; *unproved* because a demonstration has yet to be given; *debatable* because unproved.

The present Astronomer Royal of England has decided that this century ends at midnight, December 31st, 1900. Has he *proven* it? Far from it, for we find that even his decision — we assume, of course, that the London *Daily Telegraph* reports correctly the words of the Astronomer Royal — is, according to statistics, based on false principles. The following extract taken from the *Telegraph* (†) contains the decision of the Astronomer Royal. "I am requested by the Astronomer Royal to inform you that the next century will begin on January 1st, 1901 — the last year of the present century being 1900." The same paper further quotes that gentleman as saying that "at the beginning of the present century, it was conclusively shown that the nineteenth century began in 1801," thus we have the decision of an eminent man, but in his demonstration, we fail to find one argu-

(†) See Montreal Daily Star, January 28, 1899.



ment which will hold water. If he proves that the next century begins on Jan. 1st, 1901, as conclusively as he can prove that the earth moves in its orbit around the sun then we shall accept his decision.

We shall now examine the truth of the statement contained in the latter extract from the *Telegraph*. In the Anglican Book of Common Prayer we read that "for the next century, that is, from the year 1800 till the year 1899 inclusive, etc." These words clearly express a view opposite to that of the Astronomer Royal, and may reasonably be looked upon as more reliable than the decree of any one man. Again, we read in an article on this subject in *The Month* for January, 1896, that "much effect was evidently produced, a century ago, by the announcement that Mr. Fox, the great statesman, who at first had adopted the 'popular' view, had, on fuller consideration of the problem, changed his opinion and declared for 1800. This circumstance may possibly impress us less profoundly than it did our grandfathers, but it is otherwise with another statement, frequently made and seemingly never questioned, that Sir William Herschel and Maskelyne, the Astronomer Royal, concurred in the verdict that the nineteenth century commenced with the year 1800, and we are assured that in consequence 'the generality of the advocates for 1801 have given up the cause.'" These statements do not seem to bear out the contention of the present Astronomer Royal.

It seems to be a common weakness nowadays that we too readily, too willingly accept the dictum of one man or particular class of men. We have an illustration of this in the subject in question. Because historians and mathematicians have, for the sake of convenience, adopted a chronological system of computation in which 1 is taken as a basis, we feel that we *must*, in all cases, follow their example.

Why should this be so? Lalande, an eminent mathematician, would answer that "we must pass from 9 to 10 *before* we complete the decade, and, similarly, from 90 to 100 *before* we complete the century. Whatever calculation is to be made must begin with 1 and finish with 100; nobody ever thought of commencing with 0 and finishing with 99." That is all very good for Mr. Lalande. His work demands a basis of 1 in order to facilitate computation. But let us see if we may not commence with 0 and

finish with 99; or, in other words, let us see if we should begin to count at a *beginning* rather than at a *completion*. If ten years were like so many iron balls of one pound each, we may then say that, in computing their weight, we must pass from 9 lbs. to 10 lbs. “*before we complete the decade*”; but that would be dealing with time in a manner too concrete for such an abstract entity. Time is not so fangible, so stationary that a fixed quantity of it can be rolled up in a ball and counted as a whole; it is too transient to permit of that sort of manipulation. It is not something that exists as a whole, but is made up of parts; and, furthermore, these parts involve the idea of succession. To attempt an analogy, pulverize one of these iron balls, and proceed to weigh it with scales which register the weight on a dial by means of a revolving needle. If now we gradually place the pound of pulverized iron into the scale-pan, we observe that the needle approaches by degrees the mark which designates 1 pound; but it does not rest directly over the mark till *after* the last grain of the iron has been deposited. What is shown to be true of 1 pound is equally true of 10 and likewise of 100 balls of iron. But at what particular time during the weighing process did the needle register 1? Was it when we *began* or when we had finished depositing the iron in the scale-pan? Evidently it was when we had *finished* — at the *end* of the process.

What, the reader may ask, has this to do with the question? What difference does it make *when* the needle of a dial registers a certain weight? It does, as will be seen further on, make a difference, for it is a question of this nature — but referring to time — upon which depends the solution of this problem.

History has it that Dionysius Exiguus, in the sixth century, fundamentally introduced the present method of computing time; but history does *not* tell us whether he meant “1” to denote the first *completed* year after the birth of Christ, or the first year which was *to be completed* in a twelve-month. Parenthetically, it may be here stated “that the historical accuracy of the point for the commencement of the Christian era has nothing to do with the present question,” for 100 years is 100 years irrespective of what particular date is taken as a starting point.

Returning now to the question whether 1 denotes the first completed year after the birth of Christ, or the year which was to be completed in a twelve-month — to come directly to the point

under consideration, whether does 1899 denote 1899 years *completed* or 1899 years *to be completed* on December 31st, 1899—we shall see some of the arguments on each side.

The *Pittsburg Catholic*, in proving the end of the century to be 1900, argues as follows:

“To show conclusively that the year 1900 is the complement of the nineteenth and not the inception of the twentieth century a parallel may be drawn. Take the instance of a debtor who wishes to repay an indebtedness to the amount of nineteen dollars. No creditor would consider that the amount was paid in full if the sum of eighteen dollars and ninety-nine cents was paid. The one hundredth cent is necessary to complete the payment of the debt.”

The editor here looks upon each of the nineteen dollars in the same light as we have above looked upon each of the iron balls; but as we pulverized the little balls of iron, so let us break up the nineteen dollars into their constituent cents. Having at our disposal a “penny in the slot” machine which automatically registers the deposit of every dollar, we begin to drop in, one cent at a time, the nineteen dollars. Not till the hundredth cent is deposited does the machine register one dollar; nor does it register 19 until the last cent of the nineteen dollars has been deposited. Why, then, after the same fashion, should not the numerals as applied to *years* denote the number of years completed rather than the number of the year which is passing? Since the numerals indicate the minutes *past*, the hours *past*, the days *past*, why should they when applied to *years* denote the year *beginning* or *passing*?

To this course of reasoning it may be objected that we suppose a *zero* year. In truth we take 0 as a starting point, but every second, every day, every month from that point is a fractional part of the first year, and from the very nature of cardinal numbers, 0 cannot be applied to that period. That fractional part of a year may be said to belong to the *first* year because *first* is an ordinal number, and, consequently, denotes a period which is *now passing*. On the other hand, the cardinal numbers, applied to time, are to be understood *like the figures on a dial*, the divisions of a foot-rule, the mile-stones on a road, to indicate the point at which we have now arrived, and from which we are to continue our measurements.

Moreover we find in favor of 1899, as against 1900, arguments which are, at least apparently, indisputable.

Consider first that register of time, the clock. The clock is started at midnight sharp. When the minute-hand has completed the circle of the dial, the hour hand is found to be resting over the 1, indicating that one hour of that day is *past*. So with the

clock that registers days; when the hand rests over 10, for instance, it indicates that 10 days have passed. Suppose now that there was in existence at that day upon which Christ was born, a clock capable of registering the time for the ensuing twenty centuries. When it would register 1900 what would it mean? Would it not mean that 1900 years had passed? But if it indicated that 1900 years had passed, what would be the last day of those 1900 years? The clock would register 1899 when 1899 years were completed, that is at midnight on December 31st, 1898. Consequently, January 1st, 1899, would be the first day in the year for which the clock would register 1900; therefore December 31st, 1899, would be the last day of the 1900 years.

Again, consider the case of the new-born babe. When the child has lived three months, we should say that it was three months old, and in its *first* year. If it were born Jan. 1st, 1898, twelve months must have come and gone before we could say it was one year old, that is, it would have lived one full year on December 31st, 1898. The child continues to live and March comes round, but still we say it is one year old; June is at hand yet we say it is one year, and we continue to say that is one year old till December 31st, 1899, the babe all the while being in its *second* year. Reasoning in the same way, we may believe that the calendar should be interpreted likewise, that is, that December 31st, 1899, is the last day in the 1900th year.

What is substantially the same argument is very well put in *The New York Freeman's Journal*, so well indeed, that the conclusion seems unquestionable. "Suppose," writes the editor, "our Lord had continued to live in a visible manner on earth up to the present time, how old would He be?" Answer this question, and you will find that, on December 31st, 1899, our Saviour would be 1900 years old. Therefore you have very good reason to believe that on Jan. 1st, 1900, the 20th century begins.

In conclusion it may be said that the solution of this question, as it now stands, depends upon the proper application, or rather the proper interpretation of the calendar. It is therefore to be decided whether Dionysius, in applying numerals to years, meant them to indicate the years *completed* or the years *beginning*. If he meant the cardinal numbers to indicate the years *beginning*, then 1900 will be the last year of the century; if he meant them to indicate the years *completed*, December 31st, 1899, will close the nineteenth century. Therefore, in giving this article to our readers, we have in view, not to *prove* directly that 1899 is the last year of the present century, but to show that it is more reasonable to *suppose* that Dionysius, in arranging the calendar, meant the numerals to indicate the year *past* rather than the year *beginning*, or, in other words, that it is more reasonable to suppose that 1899 is the end of the century.

## THE ITALY OF TO-DAY.

## V.

So much for the Italian Government's general conduct; let us now look into its particular acts. As the Church was and still is its principal opponent its relations to that body will first come under consideration.

We well remember the golden promises it made to the Church. Let us see how well it fulfilled them. When the Italians took possession of Rome the Church in all Italy was rich. Its buildings and institutions were the works of centuries. Nearly three score generations of devoted followers had enriched it, thus enabling it to carry on its work more effectively. Many nobles on their death-beds left their entire property to some neighbouring church or monastery to be applied either to the relief of the poor or for some other good work.

The Italian government had at first promised not to touch one of these. But Italy had to take her place among the nations. A huge navy was to be built, a huge army to be equipped. Great reforms were in contemplation. But most burdensome of all to her exchequer Italy had to satiate the devouring greed of an army of shark-appetited politicians. Money was necessary and much of it too, more than could ever be collected by taxation. In this dire necessity of theirs they laid their hands on Church property. At first some insignificant buildings were seized, then greater ones until at last it ended in a wholesale confiscation. It was one of the most dastardly and flagrant breaches of justice ever committed. Scarcely had the King entered Rome when his officials seized the Quirinal, one of the largest palaces of the Popes. can be said to the credit of Victor Emmanuel that he refused to be a party to the taking of the Quirinal and never once slept within its walls. But while he thus religiously kept out of the Quirinal his servants were spoliating right and left. That religious sanctuary, that beautiful church, that retired monastery, that stately convent offered more inducements to the voracious spoilers, upon whose walls or adornments, upon whose shrines, upon whose books successive generations of toiling monks and willing hearts had bestowed a value, great truly in the eyes of the greedy world, but far greater in their power for doing good, and as monuments to the piety of past ages, and enduring proofs of the love their founders had for their God. It was not the supposed

good of Italy which moved the Italian robber. It was the size of the endowment and the amount which could be made out of the sale of the property.

At one time the spoilers of the Church in Italy advanced as an excuse for their theft that there were too many religious institutions in the country. In this they have shown themselves to be insincere, for often after seizing and confiscating religious institutions, they did not prevent the impoverished inmates, whom they had turned away, from building another house near at hand, or, if the poor religious had the slim means, from even buying the same property back from the government! The grand and well-endowed College of the Jesuits in Rome was seized, its endowment confiscated and the building itself turned into a government office! The largest hospital in Rome, magnificently endowed and under the superintendence of the Church was confiscated. It is needless to say that the endowment has mysteriously disappeared and the hospital is almost in the same state as before! Here and there, throughout the length and breadth of the land, all kinds of ecclesiastical buildings were seized, some to be used as scientific observatories, some as colleges, some as barracks, or as palaces for generals, or as stables for cavalry. Some were seized, and, as they could not be sold, were closed. The basilica of St. Paul's, to which we English contributed so often was being completed about the time of the occupation of Rome by the Italians. Its endowment was large, so large that without any extra money the church could be completed and paid for in a few years, and a considerable surplus would remain. The government seized the Church as a "public monument." It is still unfinished. The endowment has disappeared and the Italian sharks are looking for fresh prey! The ingratitude of those wretches overshadows their rascality. First they spoiled and robbed to the last red copper the monasteries upon which many poor depended for their bread. Then, when by bad government many who were formerly in comfortable circumstances were reduced to beggary and came to the government for aid, the answer given has been a few coppers to turn the beggar away and the advice: "Go to the monasteries and ask for something to eat." Yes, go to the monks from whom we took the means of living and who by dint of labor have built again and ask them for something! Of all acts that proceed from the greedy, sordid,

ungrateful heart of sinful man this seems to be the most disreputable.

## VI.

Up to the present, thousands, yes, tens of thousands of religious houses have been confiscated. The inmates were turned out on the streets. In some cases in return for the riches snatched from the community, for the government wished to be honest, each individual thus turned out was given a pittance not enough to provide even scanty clothing.

One more case will suffice to show how far the Italian government has gone and how far it is prepared to go any day. Near the Quirinal, the palace of the King, was an old convent where lived a community of aged sisters. The chiming of the convent bell at midnight calling the holy inmates to prayer, disturbed the sweet slumbers of the neighbouring royal family. Immediately the convent was seized, confiscated, and the community turned out on the street. The building was razed to the ground and now on the spot there is a public garden with beautiful trees and flowers where pleasure seekers stroll regardless of the misery of those who, when the convent disappeared missed the kind ministrations of its holy occupants, regardless of the pain and suffering of those aged nuns, in their declining years, without house, without home, wanderers on the face of the earth.

But to lay hands on the property of the Church was not enough. The government even dared to seize ecclesiastics for imaginary crimes, try them before their unjust courts, and condemn them to heavy fines and long imprisonment. It vetoed the appointments of some bishops and actually prevented them for years from taking their places in the appointed sees. In this way the government was enriched, for the revenues fell to it as long as the bishops did not occupy their sees. Clergymen were imprisoned for having pictures of the Madonna where the government thought that of Marguerite should be, for distributing little cards with the Pope's picture on them and under it "Viva Il Papa." Clergymen were fined and imprisoned for not observing the state marriage laws, for preventing freemason banners from entering their churches at the head of processions, and for doing sundry other things trifling in themselves but great in the eyes of those who want an excuse.

(To be continued.)

## SESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS.

## FRESHMEN.

*English.*

3, W. Rawley, C. Hearn; passed, D. McLennan, C. Morrissey, C. Morse, G. Dixon, Allan McDonald, A. Bernasconi, Jno. McNeil.

*Latin.*

2, C. Hearn; 3, Jno. McNeil, Allan McDonald, W. W. Harrington; passed, C. Morse, C. Morrissey, W. Ryan, W. Rawley, R. McLellan.

*French.*

1, G. Dixon; 2, C. Morse, R. Millidge, D. McLennan, Allan McDonald, J. J. McKinnon; 3, J. McNeil; passed, H. Mullins, A. McMaster, F. McIntyre, C. Morrissey, Ray McDonald, A. Bernasconi, P. Power, W. Rawley.

*Chemistry.*

1, R. Millidge, Allan McDonald; 2, F. McIntyre; 3, C. Morrissey, Rod McLellan, C. Morse, D. McLennan, H. Mullins, W. Rawley, J. McNeil, W. Ryan, G. Dixon, C. Hearn.

*Algebra.*

Passed, C. Hearn, C. Morse, W. Harrington, W. Ryan, W. Rawley.

*Geometry.*

3, C. Morse, G. Dixon; passed, P. Power, W. Harrington, Rod McLellan, C. Hearn, Leon LeCasse, W. Ryan, D. McLennan, R. Millidge, C. Chisholm, J. H. Babin.

*Arithmetic.*

1, C. Hearn, Allan McDonald; 2, G. Dixon; 3, W. Ryan; passed, D. McLennan, H. Mullins.

*Drawing.*

3, J. Harry Babin, R. Millidge; passed, C. Morse, W. Rawley, A. McMaster, C. Chisholm, F. McIntyre, R. McLellan, H. Mullins, Allan McDonald, C. Hearn, D. McLennan.

*Book-keeping.*

2, Allan McDonald; 3, C. Hearn; passed, F. McIntyre, W. Ryan, J. McNeil, J. H. Babin, C. Morse, Rod McLellan, D. McLellan, C. Chisholm, A. McMaster, A. McNeil, C. Morrissey, H. Mullins, W. Rawley.

*History and Geography.*

1, C. Morse; 2, J. H. Babin; 3, D. McLennan; passed, F. McIntyre, A. McNeil, C. Morrissey, J. McNeil, C. Hearn, W. McIsaac, A. McMaster, W. Rawley, R. McLellan, H. Mullins.



## SOPHOMORES.

*English.*

3, Angus McDonald, J. Wall; passed, J. J. McKinnon, J. J. Cameron, J. Power.

*Latin.*

1, A. McGillivray, J. Wall; 2, J. J. Cameron, H. B. Gillis; 3, W. Morse, A. B. McMillan, Angus McDonald, C. Ronan, F. R. Barton, D. Beaton; passed, H. Hayes.

*French.*

1, J. Wall, W. Morse; 2, J. J. Cameron; 3, A. B. McMillan, Angus McDonald; passed, D. Beaton, A. McGillivray, H. B. Gillis, C. Johnstone, A. Grattan, Allan McDonald, Jno. R. Power.

*Physics.*

1, J. Wall; 3, Allan McDonald, J. J. McKinnon; passed, H. Gillis, A. McGillivray, Angus McDonald, F. Barton, D. Beaton, J. Cameron, Jno. Power, C. Johnson, J. W. Brown, P. Power.

*Geometry.*

3, H. Gillis, C. Johnston, J. Cameron, J. J. McKinnon; passed, Allan McDonald, Wm. Morse, Jno. Power, Fred Barton, J. Wall.

*Algebra.*

1, D. D. McCurdy, J. J. Cameron; 2, Allan McDonald; passed, J. J. Cameron, J. Wall, C. Johnson.

*Practical Mathematics.*

2, D. D. McCurdy; 3, J. J. McKinnon, J. Wall. Passed, J. J. Cameron, F. Barton, Alan McDonald, C. Johnson, J. R. Power.

*Physiology.*

1, F. Barton, J. Wall, H. Gillis, W. Morse, J. Cameron, Angus McDonald; 2, C. Johnson, Jno. Power, J. W. Brown, Alex. McGillivray, W. Harrington, A. Bernasconi; 3, Leo LaCasse, P. Power, C. Ronan, E. R. Milledge. Passed, D. Beaton, Ray McDonald.

*History.*

1, J. Wall, J. J. McKinnon; 2, Angus McDonald, Allan McDonald, Alex. McGillivray, Fred. Barton; 3, J. W. Brown, J. Cameron, H. Gillis. Passed, D. Beaton, Alfred Grattan, C. C. Johnson, Leon LaCasse, P. Power, Peter Rankin.

*Greek.*

Passed, J. S. McAmis.

## JUNIORS.

*Philosophy.*

1, H. A. Chisholm; 3, J. P. McNeil, A. Grattan. Passed.  
M. A. Phelan, Thos. Barry, J. F. McNeil, J. Nicholson, D.  
Rankin, M. Carlin.

*Latin.*

1, D. D. McCurdy; 2, M. A. Phelan, J. P. McNeil, T. J.  
Barry; 3, H. A. Chisholm, D. J. Rankin. Passed, L. J. La-  
Casse, A. Grattan, M. Carlin, J. F. McNeil, J. Fitzpatrick.

*English.*

3, M. A. Phelan, H. A. Chisholm, D. D. McCurdy. Passed,  
Thos. Barry, J. P. McNeil, D. Rankin, A. B. McMillan.

*French.*

2, H. A. Chisholm; 3, J. P. McNeil, D. Rankin. Passed,  
J. F. McNeil, M. A. Phelan, M. Carlin, T. Barry.

*Physics.*

3, J. McAmis. Passed, M. A. Phelan, Thos. Barry, H. A.  
Chisholm, John Nicholson, D. Rankin, A. B. McMillan, J. F.  
McNeil, J. P. McNeil.

*Trigonometry.*

1, J. McAmis, M. A. Phelan; 2, J. P. McNeil, H. A. Chis-  
holm, T. Barry; 3, J. F. McNeil. Passed, D. Rankin, M. Carlin.

*Algebra.*

1, J. McAmis; 3, John Nicholson. Passed, M. A. Phelan,  
A. B. McMillan.

*Geometry.*

1, D. D. McCurdy, M. A. Phelan, Thomas Barry, A. B. Mc-  
Millan, John McAmis; 2, J. F. McNeil, J. P. McNeil; 3, M.  
Carlin, D. Rankin, H. A. Chisholm.

*Greek.*

1, D. D. McCurdy, A. B. McMillan; 2, J. H. Nicholson;  
3, J. P. McNeil; passed, D. Rankin.

## SENIORS.

*Latin.*

1, L. E. O'Keefe; 2, R. St. John Macdonald, Alexander  
Campbell; 3, Allen McDonald; passed, J. J. Corbett, R. A. J.  
McIsaac.

*French.*

1, R. St. J. Macdonald, L. E. O'Keefe; 3, A. Campbell.  
Passed, J. J. Corbett, R. A. J. McIsaac, J. Murphy.

*Chemistry.*

1, R. St. J. Macdonald, Alex. Campbell; 2, J. J. Corbett.  
Passed, Allan McDonald, R. A. J. MeIsaac, J. Murphy.

*Physics.*

Passed, R. St. J. Macdonald, A. Campbell, Allan McDonald  
J. J. Corbett, R. A. J. MeIsaac, John Murphy.

*Astronomy.*

1, L. E. O'Keefe, A. Campbell Allan McDonald.

*Geometry.*

1, L. E. O'Keefe.

*Greek.*

1, L. E. O'Keefe.

## PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

(Omitted last issue.)

*History, 2nd Year.*

3, A. McIntosh.

*Latin, 2nd Year.*

Passed, H. McKinnon.

## JESSICA — A CHARACTER STUDY.

(*The Merchant of Venice.*)

Of the four leading characters in *The Merchant of Venice* much has been written; while toward the minor characters comparatively little attention is directed. As the chief function of the latter is to assist in the evolution of the main plot they have not been considered worthy of much attention in themselves. But they have, it is our opinion, just as true and artistic a value, although in not so high an order. Hence a study of their characters will assuredly prove interesting and instructive.

Among these minor characters, none, we think, affords more scope for thought and study than does Jessica. Throughout the play we have frequent evidence of the high regard in which she is held by all with whom she has any connection — save only the Jew, her father. And herein lies the difficulty of pronouncing with certainty on the goodness of her character. Is Jessica's conduct towards her father warranted in the light of his treatment of her? We answer, not wholly. Her conduct in fleeing his

house, the home of her childhood, needs no defender. The attending circumstances, on the other hand, admit of more question. That Jessica could have taken a large sum of her father's money without the least semblance of compunction or the smallest excuse argues on her part either a consciousness of right—rather an unconsciousness of wrong doing — or an aptness in crime wholly incompatible with her every other action. The blameless, not to say virtuous tenor of her life outside of this one matter, forbids us to believe that the latter alternative is possible. We must suppose, then, that she acted under the impression that she took but what she was entitled to. Nor is it difficult to find an explanation of her mental attitude in her early life.

Left motherless while still young, she was surrounded by none of the influences that tend to cultivate sentiments of moral rectitude. Her father, whose life ambition was to be revenged on his Christian enemies for wrongs long endured, had little in common with his daughter. The amenities of domestic life were long unknown to him. He allowed, unwittingly perhaps, the pent-up anger and ferocity of his nature to be visited upon his daughter. He hated with a bitter hate and his daughter was made to feel this. He would not have her even look upon a Christian pageant:

“ Clamber you not up to the casement then,  
Nor thrust your head into the public street  
To gaze on Christian fools with varnished faces.”

Nor is this the limit of the Jew's ill-treatment of his only child. He is ever filled with unreasonable suspicion of her. This is especially noticeable when he is about leaving to keep his appointment with Bossanio:

“ Well Jessica, go in,  
*Perhaps I will return immediately.*  
Do as I bid you, shut doors after you.”

All this, we may readily suppose, in his characteristic snarling tone, which must needs strike icily upon the young daughter's heart. There were but little incentive to virtue in such an unwholesome atmosphere. None, indeed, but a naturally good and virtuous soul could have come forth from it uncorrupted. Surely,

then, censure for her failings must give place to admiration for her virtues.

But now her lovable temperament yearns for a broader sphere. She has borne with the capricious temper of her father and his brutal commands, hitherto, in silent patience. Henceforth she will live a new life:

“ Our House is Hell.”

She will remain no longer :

“ Farewell, and if my fortunes be not crost,  
I have a father; you a daughter lost.”

She will fly with Lorenzo, a most honorable man and her sincere admirer. But the attempt is fraught with difficulties and dangers. Her father, furious at her flight with a Christian, may seek to reclaim her and make her feel, as he well knows how, that however hideous her former life, it were bliss to this latter. She can therefore take no chances; money is needed; time presses; she must hasten to be off before the Jew returns :

“ I will make fast the doors and gild myself  
With some more ducats and be with you straight.”

She is intoxicated with her first taste of freedom, and like the fledgling that essays for the first time its wings and mounts to heights scarce visited by the parent bird, she would attain to and possess that to which the prudent or worldly-wise could scarcely dare to aspire. Freedom is sweet, and she drinks deeply at the fountain its life-giving draughts. She has not yet learned its true use, and helps herself to her father's money with true child-like simplicity.

And now we approach that time in her life when troubles and temptations are happily at an end. What feelings must be hers when, with Lorenzo under the open summer sky, the moon shines bright and soft stillness reigns!

“ When the sweet wind did kiss the trees,  
And they did make no noise.”

How different from the time when with the Jew she saw naught of beauty or good or virtue. Nature herself seems to assist in making her heart glad. She feels no longings or regrets, but rests in the bosom of a true, deep, and, let us hope, lasting, happiness.

## DEBATE.

Our Literary and Debating Society is this year, as it has been in the past, calculated to do much good to its members. Indeed from the keen interest evinced in the discussions of the last few weeks it would seem as though its members were intent upon surpassing the debaters of former years. This is as it should be. Although skilful debaters have gone forth from our ranks, it must not be supposed that all the talent has gone with them. A *novus homo* is not usually reckoned a first-class debater until he has gained some experience and proved his right to be recognized as one of the foremost. This year, however, some new members have by one great leap taken a front rank.

The students seem to recognize fully the importance of being able to debate a question skilfully and forcibly. It matters not in which one of the many walks of life we may find ourselves, to be able to express our views in public with clearness and precision will be to us not only a source of satisfaction, but also very often a passport to wealth and fame. To be able to hold our own in face of all opposition is very desirable in the conflict of opinion that prevails in every department of life. A man may possess brilliant ideas, he may originate wise plans and be eloquent with his pen; but if he is not a fluent speaker he will always find it difficult to secure the co-operation of others.

The question for debate is not of so much importance as the manner in which the discussion itself is carried on. The art of properly conducting a discussion is one which requires considerable attention. A successful debater will always state clearly his position and support it with strong arguments, listen carefully to the reply of his opponent, note his arguments and rebut them. Since the time allotted to each speaker is limited, it is necessary that he should make the best possible use of that time. He must keep the debate within the proper limits,—that is, the point under discussion must always be kept in view; side issues must be carefully avoided; and personalities should never, under any circumstances, be permitted. The speaker must present his views in as concise a manner as is consistent with clearness, and always bear in mind that a multiplicity of words can never take the place of strong arguments.

To the superficial, college debates may not appear to be of much importance. But that does not affect their value in the

least. The college debaters of to-day are our future legislators, our future leaders in matters of church and state. Their habits of to-day are likely to be those which they will exhibit in after life. Who will, then, deny the vast importance of attending even to the smallest matters in debate? It may cost a student no little self-restraint sometimes to yield when he finds himself vanquished; but to yield gracefully will often be much to his advantage. The young man who, when pushed to the wall by an opponent, hurls abuse at him, is developing an element of character that he will sorely regret in after days. The cool, calm debater is always the master of his own arguments as well as of the minds and hearts of his hearers. To handle successfully the subject under discussion, there must be previous study in order to find out and logically arrange the facts bearing on the point at issue. The man who flings his statements into the arena of debate without any regard for their accuracy is deserving of very little respect, and he who deliberately gives utterance to falsehood is worthy of none at all. An honourable defeat is far better than a victory gained by unfair or questionable means.

Although we have this year, if not better than, at least as good a debating club as in former years, still there are many students who do not attend the debate. But they have no idea of the great opportunity that they are allowing to escape without making an effort to derive some benefit therefrom. We think that a college debate should make up for any shortcomings there may be in its curriculum. It serves as an incentive to extra work on the part of the student; it stimulates him to the study of matter which he would otherwise pass by. But why this complaint of non-attendance and scant interest? Is there no way to remedy this defect? Would not a system of Intercollegiate Debating awaken a more general interest? Every college has its base-ball, its foot-ball and its hockey teams, as well as its debating club. What is it that makes the former so interesting? Is it not the prospect of meeting and gaining a victory over some rival team? The same plea can be advanced in favor of Intercollegiate Debating. Such a system ought to be established between the colleges of Nova Scotia, or even between the institutions of the Maritime Provinces. Their object is, or ought to be, the intellectual as well as the physical development of the students.

## SPORTS.

## HOCKEY.

*Town, 1 — College, 0.*

The above is the result of the second game in the series between Town and College. Although our boys suffered a defeat, it was a defeat which may almost be called a victory. That the town boys were surprised after the first match, goes without saying. In previous years they always had an easy time, as far as hockey is concerned. The sudden check they received was quite a revelation. They were fully determined, therefore, to crush our boys by a brilliant and decisive victory. They succeeded in winning the second game, but as the score indicates, it was far from being one-sided. Both teams played with determination and with vim. The players on each side body-checked heavily, and now and again indulged in tactics which are not found under hockey rules. In spite of all, the best of feeling prevailed. We must say that the game was one of the hardest-fought battles in the history of hockey. From a spectator's point of view the match was something not to be forgotten. Although at times the playing was not up to the standard, the game created the greatest excitement. After the first half, the students were confident of winning. Neither side had scored, but our boys had slightly the advantage. In the second half the game became rougher, and St. F. X., instead of rushing the puck with the vigor which characterized the first half, took a rest when their rushes were most needed! Individual and grand-stand playing were indulged in, and the boys' chances of scoring seemed very slim. At this point of the game an accident happened C. Hearn. He received a severe blow on the knee and was obliged to retire. After a few minutes' delay the game was continued. But "Charlie" was no longer "in it." At last the whistle blew and the game was over. Neither side had scored; the captains decided to play the ten-minute limit. Our boys were now practically playing with only six men. They fought pluckily, but to no avail. After six minutes' play the Town scored. Thus ended the second game in the series, and the best on record.

The third game of the series was a victory for the Blue, White and Blue. Our boys played a splendid game; so did their opponents. The town boys played hockey from the start.



and not until the last whistle had sounded did they give up hope. They made desperate rushes towards the College goal, but "de boys" stayed right with them. Our defence played a splendid game, and it was impossible for the Town to score. The body-checking was a "stern reality," and it was rather a dangerous thing to dilly-dally too long with the puck. The sides of the rinks were heights which were easily scaled when heavy-weights like Jardine and McGillivray collided with the unwary. Two phenomenal stops by Mellish, the Town goal-keeper, prevented the score-card from indicating 3 to 0 instead of 1 to 0. The encouragement the players received from their comrades would have enabled them to defeat any team. When the game was over, "Hobble gobble" and "1, 2, 3, who are we," mingling with the martial strains of "Blue, White and Blue," re-echoed again and again through the grove until the College was reached and its doors were opened to receive the victors. The teams were as follows :

TOWN.		COLLEGE.			
Mellish	- - -	Goal	- - - Ed. Grant.		
McLean,	- - -	Point	- - - Harrington.		
Jardine,	- - -	Cover Point.	- - - McGillivray.		
Cunningham,	} - - -	Forwards,	} Hearn.		
Borden,				} Brown.	
Blanchard,					} Gillis.
H. Chisholm.					



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