

McGILL

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Monday, December 15th, 1884.

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UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Vol. VIII.]

MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, DECEMBER 15TH, 1884.

[No. 3.]

McBill University Gazette

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THE UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

Editorials.

A DENIAL.

We desire to contradict an impression which prevails with some people, that this paper is the property of, and conducted in the interests of a certain society. No greater untruth can be imagined. Neither the proprietors nor the editors of the GAZETTE represent any others than the students and graduates of this University, considered as such. The columns of the paper are open to the expression of every shade of opinion, and all who wish to have any dealings with us may depend upon receiving fair play. We regret that this explanation should be necessary, but, as some malicious persons are to our detriment, industriously circulating the false report above mentioned, we are forced to give it this emphatic denial.

THE SCIENCE FACULTY CRITICIZED.

WHILE we feel grateful to the men who have made the Science Faculty what it is, we should not overlook the fact that its future prosperity depends chiefly on the success of its graduates. Should they prove to be unfitted, by the nature of their education, to accomplish well the work required of them, their deeds will reflect discredit on their *Alma mater*. On the other hand should they be successful in undertakings requiring much practical skill as well as scientific knowledge,

the Faculty need not waste money in advertising; its halls will always be well filled. Its undergraduates comprise young men from all parts of the Dominion, many of whom are, and have been for years, wholly dependent on themselves to procure means for the prosecution of their studies. Owing to the nature of their early training and the circumstances in which they have been placed they are inclined to regard every undertaking in its practical bearings. They are unwilling to spend time and money in studies without closely calculating the benefits that are likely to accrue from them.

Professors, in their zeal to make departments under their charge famous, may unintentionally inflict heavy tasks, whose utility is doubtful, on this class of students. From our own experience we know that a teacher is apt to pay more attention and give undue prominence to the subject in which he excels. It must, however, be conceded by all that although such a course is pleasant to the teacher it may not be advantageous to the pupils. To the one whose main object in life has been—not how shall I earn a living—but how shall I become a famed mathematician, mathematical calculations and the unfolding of principles which are supposed to form the basis of engineering science will, in all probability, prove interesting.

It is not our duty to criticise without careful consideration the course of study that wiser men than we have mapped out for us. Our aim is to ascertain, if possible, whether it is to our best interests to spend the greater part of the third and fourth years of a four years' course in solving difficult problems by the aid of formulæ which we must be able to deduce by means of the higher analysis.

In relation to this question we may be allowed to quote from Mr. G. L. Vose, whom we know through his excellent practical treatise—"The Manual for Railroad Engineers." He says, "The idea that has sometimes been expressed that an engineer must at any time be able to go to the formation of any formula which he may have to use, shows simply an entire lack of appreciation of the work an engineer has to do. Indeed, many of the formulæ are found upon examination to have no foundation on which any reliance can be placed. A very large part of the rules in the books have been made, not by engineers, but by mathematicians, or by mere engineering scholars; and, how-

ever admirable they may be as specimens of mathematical reasoning, they are of little or no use in practice. I take the whole matter of stone arches, of retaining walls, of dams, of the pressure of earth-work—the results of the higher analysis are for the most part of no practical value whatever and serve only to confuse and disgust the student with what, treated in a simple and practical way, may be made both useful and interesting."

"Not many years ago," says the same Author, the custom was very general in our colleges to oblige all students to go through the differential and integral calculus. This was done purely on the ground of discipline, for no one ever claimed that it was to be of any use to the student. It was found, however, after many years that except in rare cases the student utterly failed to get any return at all commensurate to the amount of time given to this study. For the greater number it was merely an inducement to shirk duty and a means of getting slovenly habits of study. It is now almost universally abandoned as a required study in college."

"Much time," says Mr. Thomas C. Clark, "is wasted in our colleges and technical schools over the higher mathematics. Every engineer will agree with me that the cases where the use of the higher calculus is indispensable in our practice are so few that its study is not worth the time expended on it; and we have the highest authority for saying that unless its use is constantly kept up we become too rusty to use it at all."

"Practical engineers," says Mr. Charles Bender, himself an accomplished mathematician, "generally do not place much confidence in long formulæ and if they once have studied mathematics thoroughly, they lose the taste for their studies after some time of practice since they have convinced themselves of the futility of ultra-refined theoretical speculations."

"In our experience of nearly half a century as an engineer," says Mr. J. W. Adams, "we have rarely found that engineers possessing this peculiar faculty for minute mathematical analysis, with the consequent reliance upon its infallibility which usually accompanies it, were safe guides, either in the design or execution of novel projects."

"We often hear it stated," says Mr. Vose, that the business of the school is not to deal with details but with what are somewhat vaguely termed general principles. I believe there never was a greater fallacy.

No general principle can possibly be applied to engineering construction except by means of practical details; and in many cases the details are more important than the principles. I believe that just as

engineering practice preceded engineering science, so in our course of instruction we must have a soil of practical conceptions in which the theoretical plant can grow. To give a young man an exhaustive theoretical discussion in the school and to tell him that by and-by he will run across the practical details, is very much like setting out a plant upon a brick side walk, and trusting to luck to get some earth about its roots at some future time."

The opinions above quoted emanate from men who stand high in the engineering profession and are worthy the consideration of every student in Applied Science. Fortunately for Canada, the men upon whose skill reliance is placed for carrying on the present engineering enterprises do not mentally dwell in ethereal regions where none of the difficulties of defects in materials and workmanship enter to mar their beautiful theoretical calculations. They are eminently practical men and to such our graduates apply for situations. In the interests therefore, of the Faculty which we shall ever endeavor to uphold, it behoves every undergraduate in Science to prepare well for the particular work which he intends to pursue by giving most of his time to those studies which will be of greatest benefit to him in after life.

FREE SPEECH.

A CORRESPONDENT, who for some inexplicable reason signs himself "Free Speech," attacks us for censuring the Arts Faculty which has lately aimed a successful blow at that very privilege of free speech, which the people of this country are supposed so highly to value. As his letter has been framed with a good deal of misleading ingenuity, we purpose to discuss it point by point. He says: "the rule of submitting the questions for debate to the Faculty is not a new thing." True! the rule is not new. The members of the Undergraduates' Society have known of this rule ever since the society came into existence; they have twice before, if not oftener, been called upon to comply with that rule. Once they discussed it, and it will be within the memory of our correspondent that the society then determined to disband rather than submit; the other time, or times, they quietly ignored the ukase of the Vice-dean. What did the Faculty do? Their wisdom on those occasions was truly commendable. They allowed themselves to forget they had ever issued the decree.

"The Faculty have a perfect right to a direct control over the proceedings of the U. L. S., when they both provide the hall in which its meetings are held and are responsible for the general conduct of its members as students," says "Free Speech." Have

they indeed? The Faculty undoubtedly are entrusted with the control of the college building for educational purposes, but they do not own that building, and though they have the power, it would be a gross breach of trust for them to prevent the U. L. S. from meeting in the building. It would be the easiest thing in the world to obtain affidavits from fifteen or twenty graduates to the effect that they had profited more by the discussions in that society than by any one of the courses of lectures. Again, the Faculty's control over the students does not, and cannot, extend to their speech. If there is one birthright which is dear to the hearts of Canadians, it is that of unfettered expression of opinion on all subjects. Our correspondent says the U. L. S. simply submitted to constituted authority. If so, how far does this authority extend? If the Faculty may control public expression of opinion, why not private? No, this question is not one of expediency, but of principle. As Cowper says, "corporations have no souls," and the action of the Faculty is only another example of the unnecessarily harsh display of authority which men, highly estimable as individuals, will allow themselves to indulge in when associated together.

The concluding part of his letter, "Free Speech" devotes to abusing us for exercising that very quality. The GAZETTE arrogates to itself no right that is not the prerogative of every man, and consequently of every paper which is a conveyance of the thought of men, throughout this country. In our prospectus we promised our readers to point out abuses boldly, and to frankly exercise our right of criticism. Here was a monstrous abuse, a body of men attempting to check an expression of opinion upon one of the most important questions of the day—a question which it is every Canadian's duty to deliberate upon, that when the time for its determination comes, he may not be found undecided. What, then, was the duty of the editors of this paper? Clearly to denounce in the strongest terms such an unwarrantable invasion of privilege. If, in so doing, we had stepped beyond the bounds of our right or in any way injured the persons criticised, or if we ever do so, the aggrieved have their recourse in the courts of this Dominion. We acknowledge no other control than the law and our own honorable principles.

A UNIVERSITY CLUB.

LAST year quite a number of our graduates allowed themselves to become interested in a project for the establishment of a University Club, a committee was appointed to make estimates of the cost of maintaining such a club, and the committee reported that at least

two thousand dollars would be required in the first year and half as much each subsequent year, whereupon the scheme fell through. Not having the data upon which this estimate was based in our possession, we are unable to understand how it came to be so extravagant. No club of college men can be started in this city, except in the most modest way, and for a very simple reason. Most of them, who are young enough to care for a club, are engaged in a struggle for existence, which never allows them to be overburdened with means. Yet there are many of these men who confess a longing for some place in which, the struggle being forgotten for a while, they may give themselves up to the enjoyment of quiet conversation with their peers, or find relaxation over a magazine or a game of chess. And why should this relaxation be denied them? Fifty men, willing to pay a first fee of five dollars, could furnish comfortably, though plainly, two rooms, and maintain them with all the appliances necessary to the purpose for a fee of one dollar a month each. A few details will make this clear. For two hundred dollars comfortable furniture for two rooms can be bought, and fifty dollars will cover the floors with a matting or woollen carpet. A house of ten rooms can be rented in a good quarter of the city for three hundred dollars, and surely two rooms, lighted and heated, can be secured for the same sum. This leaves three hundred dollars for magazines and other necessary attractions. But it must be remembered that the men who frequent a club are its chiefest allurements. Besides, more than fifty members can doubtless be secured even at starting, for there cannot be less than two hundred available men in the city. At any rate the advantages which a club, even of the most modest proportions, offers are worthy of a determined effort to secure them. We are very anxious that such an effort should be made at once, and promise all the aid in our power to any who will undertake to galvanize our sluggish graduates into action. Meanwhile, we invite correspondence upon the subject.

The University of Manitoba is considering the establishment of a Law Course. The medical matriculation has been arranged so that students may have their option between the subjects appointed by Manitoba University and those examined on by McGill.

The Harvard Library contains 185,000 volumes; Yale, 115,000; Dartmouth, 60,000; Brown, 52,000; Columbia, 51,000; Princeton, 49,000; Cornell, 46,000; Michigan, 45,000; Williams, 19,000; Iowa, 18,000; Oberlin, 16,000; Minnesota, 15,000; and Cumberland, 8,000.

gate it for a hundred years, with little wooden sailing ships, surely specially built iron steamships would be able to. Undoubtedly by that time also, and perhaps if Rumour speaks true long before, the tea trade of China and Japan will have sought this as the shortest and best line to Europe. The Grand Trunk also would find its traffic, both inward and outward, enormously increased. For the rich province of Ontario will supply almost unlimited traffic to this great railway when once restrictions at the seaboard are minimised, and imports pass back and forward as freely as the products of the Country, and possibly the new Bonaventure Station might be built. While our shipping both in the Province of Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces, would be vastly stimulated. Becoming part of Britannia, we would like Britannia, rule the waves.

But I shall be told our manufactures would be ruined, that we should be turned into a purely agricultural community, that the cities would disappear from the face of the earth. Well I am not going into the question as to which is the more desirable population, a rural or an urban. I would not discriminate against either; let each have fair play, and allow people to follow their natural bent. But I do not think in a country like Canada with a northwest such as we have to open up, it is wise to discourage the farmers. I propose however to show that Canadian manufactures would not die, but that they would be manifestly benefited by the policy I am now advocating. I assert that by far the larger number of Canadian manufactures have nothing to fear from the manufacturers of England, that the great bulk of manufactures therefore would be actually benefited by a policy of free trade with England, and prohibition against the United States. This will appear in two ways. First, if under the old tariff the United States were able to compete with England, in any manufacture for which we have equal natural facilities with the United States, Canada, upon the United States being shut out from competition, would be able to compete with England. This may not apply to cotton in which the United States have the raw material closer at hand, nor possibly to some kinds of hardware so far as their production in the United States depends upon the supply of iron in Pennsylvania. Though in the latter case, if, as I am informed is the case, the reason we bought our axes, chisels and other edge tools from the States, was not that they were cheaper than the same classes of articles produced in England, but because they were of a pattern that the English manufacturers did not produce, in that case Canada would be well able to compete with England. For English makers are sometimes slow at adopting a new pattern, but manufacturers in Canada could adopt and have adopted these. And with pig iron still imported from England cheaper than it can be produced in Pennsylvania in spite of a single transaction to the contrary, we should be able to hold our own. Here there is a list of manufactured goods, in which under the old tariff the United States competed with England, in some supplying a larger in others a smaller quantity. And it will be remembered that there was no discrimination against either. These are taken from the Re-

turns for 1879, and include only articles whose import exceeded \$100,000, and only those that I believe are now manufactured in Canada.

IMPORTS INTO CANADA, YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1879.

Articles	From United States	From United Kingdom
Refined Sugar	3,090,000	1,100,000
Hardware (1345)	1,315,000	391,000
Cotton Jeans	1,013,000	1,235,000
Manufactures	845,000	1,775,000
Bleached and Unbleached	647,000	256,000
Small wares	619,000	1,242,000
Sugar, Low grades	470,000	74,000
Hats and caps	421,000	225,000
Wood manufactures N.E.S.	274, 00	24,000
Pianos	275,000	149 0
Iron Castings and stoves	248,000	44,000
Wood Farmers	237,000	10,000
Coal Bituminous	225,000	11,000
Boots and shoes	173,000	15,000
Tobacco	177,000	16,000
Cotton Clothing	169,000	145,000
Paper	156,000	32,000
Drugs	146,000	191,000
Leather	131,000	72,000
Wool manufactures	124,000	4,250,000
Sailcloth	124,000	40,000
Fancy goods	117,000	404,000
Straw hats	105,000	98,000
Carriages	103,000	3, 00
	\$11,275,000	\$12,049,000

If then Canada could manufacture \$11,000,000 of manufactured goods that were formerly imported from the United States, that would certainly give an impetus to certain branches of trade.

But there is another way in which we can arrive at the effect that would be produced upon our manufactures by free trade with England and prohibition against the United States. Taking the list of our manufacturing industries given in the new Census, we find that 60 per cent of all industries employing more than 2000 hands were the following: Saw mills, Boots and Shoes, Carriage making, Preserved food, Flour and grist mills, Cabinet and furniture, Carpenters and Joiners, Tanneries, Ship yards, Agricultural Implements, Tobacco, Cooperage, Harness and Saddlery, Sash, door and blind factories, Shingle making, and Cheese factories,—these giving employment to 127,000 out of 155,000. They have nothing to fear from English, and they would certainly be benefited by exclusion of American competition. Again 17 per cent. more were engaged in the following: Blacksmithing, DRESSMAKING, Printing, Brick and tile making, Bakeries, and Limekilns; which employ 36,000 more. These I believe would not be injuriously affected by free trade with England. The two make together 163,000 out of 210,000, or 77 per cent. The same percentage would hold good for the minor industries,—those employing a smaller number of hands. The total industrial employees were 255,000 of which 77 per cent. is 196,000. These I claim would gain. Even the others though they would have to face English competition, would have cheaper raw material and machinery than they have now and would have the protection afforded by the cost of carriage from England to Canada. I think therefore I am right in saying that the only class that could in any way suffer, would be a small fraction of Hot house Protegees, whose industries should never have been established in the country, as we do not possess natural facilities for carrying them on profitably.

(To be continued.)

McGill News.

THE MEDICAL DINNER.

The undergraduates in Medicine held their annual dinner at the Windsor Hotel, on Thursday evening, Dec. 4th, about 140 gentlemen sitting down to a bill-of-fare that would have satisfied a Sybarite. The dinner was on the whole a success especially for the first half of the programme, but the inordinate length of time to which it was protracted evidently proved too much for the 'staying' powers of most of the guests, for the end of the proceedings which did not occur until two o'clock in the morning saw but a small sprinkling of them at the table. The committee, whose labors we cannot too highly commend, had evidently denied themselves no trouble in the preparation of the dinner and were ably seconded by the competent co-operation of the Windsor officials.

After the dinner had been fully discussed, the Secretary to the Committee read letters of regret from His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, His Honor Lieut.-Governor Masson, U. S. Consul-General Stearns, Sir. F. Hincks, Judge Mackay, Judge Torrance, H. McLennan, G. Hague, R. A. Ramsay, Joseph Hickson, H. Mackay, M. H. Gault, M.P., Hon. J. Hamilton, Andrew Allan, G. A. Drummond, A. F. Gault, Dr. Grant, Dr. McEachran, W. J. Mitchell,—president London, Ont. Hospital,—Dr. Roddick, Dr. Fenwick, and from Dr. Osler, whose name of course was cheered to the echo.

The Chairman, Mr. Harkin, in an amusing introductory speech traced the History of Dining from the primitive *al fresco* repasts of the garden of Eden to those of the present day, with an exhaustive treatment of the Archaeology of Gastronomy. After sketching the evolution of the present Annual Undergraduates' Dinner from the primal germ of the first Footing Dinner of 1856, and contrasting the two most advantageously for the former, he went on to touch in an unwary moment on the subject of the Higher Education of Women. In describing, by-the-by, the misdeeds that would probably be employed in a domestic conflict—an event which he threatened his audience would inevitably overtake such of them as chose their helpmeets from among the Highly Educated,—his speculations led him to the use of a geological term (as yet, we believe, not in currency) which nearly brought a fit upon the distinguished guest on his right. After a few more humorous remarks upon the same subject, he took his seat amid much applause.

The first toast on the card was that of "The Queen," having been drunk to the accompaniment of "The National Anthem," was followed by that of the Governor-General and "Lieut. Governor."

The next toast, to the "President of the United States," was proposed by Mr. D. McG. DeCow, who expressed the hearty good wishes of the company for their cousins across the border, among whom were so many of their friends, and by whom so many McGill graduates were adopted.

He was followed by a duet, "The Larboard Watch" sung by Messrs. Orton and Pomeroy, after which Prof. Penhallow rose to respond to the toast. He uttered a

regret for the absence of the President of the United States and expressed a belief that the mutual good feeling between Canadians and Americans would be perpetuated, especially in view of the result of the late elections. He emphasized the assertion that the unity between the two great English speaking nations was a real one and that most Americans looked upon England as the mother country and were proud to trace their descent from Englishmen. "The University" was proposed in a short speech by the second vice-chairman, Mr. A. D. McDonald.

The Principal Sir William Dawson, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, took for the text of this reply the quotation appended to the toast:—

Thanks for the Lessons of this Spot.

In taking advantage of the dubious application of the words "this spot," he divided his remarks so as to cover both the lessons of the dinner table and the lessons to be learned from the University. The latter were the interdependence of Graduates and Professors, their mutual debts, and community of interests. The generosity of our *Alma Mater*, he urged upon his hearers, should be repaid fully and with interest by her *alumni* with efforts to promote the welfare of the University abroad and at home, and "to raise the name of McGill in the history of the world." In touching upon the lessons of the Dinner table he referred to a proposition broached upon a similar occasion last year, namely the erection of a dining hall for the use of the undergraduates. After dating the concurrence of opinion upon the subject among the heads of the University he proceeded to assure the undergraduates that at no distant date their assembling together for dining purposes would be changed from an annual to a daily occurrence, citing the instance of the historic ant (by the way he thought it was a *spider*) as an example of the perseverance of the McGill authorities in matters of reform. Proceeding then to a discussion of Female Education he criticised the premises and deductions drawn from the character of Eve as an uneducated person were very different from those that might have been deduced had that lady been a graduate of McGill. In conclusion he re-assured his hearers that Mr. Harkin's threats were idle, that all they had to fear from 'sweet girl graduates' was their possible superiority in examinations, and hoped that they would meet no worse fate than the possessions of one of these ladies for a wife.

After the burst of applause which greeted the best speech of the evening, had subsided "the tuneful Choir" sang "*Alma Mater*."

"The Dean and Professors" was given by given by Mr. R. T. Irvine in a short speech, expressive of the esteem and veneration entertained by the students for their teachers, and bestowing a well-earned encomium upon labours which, he feared, obtained scarcely a tithe of the praise they deserved.

The heartiness of the cheers that greeted Mr. Irvine's speech testified to the sincerity of the undergraduate feeling toward their professors.

Dr. R. P. Howard, the Dean of the Medical Faculty, in reply, thanked the students for their cordial reception of the toast, stating his conviction that it was no conventional tribute born of the occasion, but the ex-

pression of a regard that had evolved into an affection, based upon the mutual interests of professors and undergraduates. The interests of the professors, he said, were to give the best foundation in medical science to their pupils, to enkindle in them a love of learning for its own sake, and to inculcate those higher principles by which men of science should be actuated; and that the interests of the students consisted not only in individually availing themselves of those advantages, but to co-operate in maintaining them by perpetuating the dignity and importance which has always characterised McGill, and that standard of excellence, both among professors and undergraduates, which had made the University what it is—a result obtainable only by co-operation; let them strive to make the possession of a McGill degree as enviable a passport to society as the magic *Cris-Romanus Sun* of the Romans. In an eloquent reference to Dr. Osler's departure, he expressed his sorrow for a loss which no one could appreciate so fully as himself, a loss which, however, much may have been professionally repaired by his able successor, could never be personally compensated for. After an allusion to the project of a University Dining Hall, mentioned by the Principal, and pledging his assistance to the scheme, the Dean took his seat amid prolonged applause. [Concluded in our next.]

The following is a letter received from Dr. Osler in acknowledgement of a testimonial—in the shape of a gold watch—sent him by his former pupils of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year men in Medicine:—

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4th, 1884.

To the members of classes '85, '86 and '87.

My dear students, for so you always were, and to address you so expresses my feelings still, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your great kindness in sending the beautiful present which I have just received. I thank you for it most sincerely.

But I have to thank you and your predecessors of nine classes for a present even richer and more enduring, one which I esteem above anything I possess, your confidence and your love; the consciousness that during the ten years of my sojourn at McGill I won the esteem of the successive classes, lies deep among my most cherished feelings, and shall ever be indissolubly joined in my mind with those most sacred and enduring memories of family, home and friendship. As I look into the future such a feeling is at once a comfort and a stimulus, dashed though it be at present with the thought that there was an element of ingratitude in leaving McGill, an *Alma Mater* so kind, students so devoted and colleagues so considerate: but this source of present worry, time with its kindly friction will doubtless efface.

That time which you have enabled me to measure more accurately will soon bring upon you the serious responsibilities of life, and amid the busy cares of practice the memories of your college days will grow dim as a dream at noonday. But there will come critical periods in your careers—of doubt, of anxiety and perhaps of mental distress—in which your thoughts will turn back to your old teachers and the

effect of their influence or example will then become manifest, and if in such moments any words of mine or the influence of my work among you enables you the better to battle with difficulties within or without, my labor will not have been in vain.

I remain,
Your former teacher
And ever your friend.

WILLIAM OSLER.

The rush of books will shortly necessitate the providing of more accommodation in the Library. A large case for books in front of the window facing the door is proposed, and cases for the same purpose to stand where the reading tables are now placed are talked of. In the latter event, readers would take refuge in the alcoves.

The only result of the recent controversy upon the question of separate or co-education seems to be that the Faculty are now more bent than ever upon pursuing the former policy. They have announced that the ladies will not be ranked with the freshmen in the Xmas examination.

An improvement is to be effected in the Arts Reading Room by the removal of the antiquated desk, and the substitution of a new and tastefully designed article to replace the aforesaid relic.

Societies.

UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

The great interest taken in this society during the present term was manifested by the very large attendance at its meetings. The opening meeting was held on Oct. 3rd, when the following officers were elected:—President, A. H. U. Colquhoun; 1st vice-president, N. P. Yates; 2nd vice-president, R. Henderson; secretary, S. Moore; asst.-sec., T. Henderson; treasurer, E. P. Matthewson; committee, Messrs. G. F. Calder, J. McDougall, F. Fopp, A. P. Murray and Wm. Lochhead.

The following gentlemen have favored the society with essays, all of which were exceedingly interesting: Mr. Lochhead, "The Gulf Stream;" Mr. Patterson, "An Essay on the Press;" Mr. Colquhoun, "The Life of James Payne;" Mr. H. S. McLennan, "A Practical Study of the French Language;" Mr. McDougall, "The Battle of Chateauguay;" Mr. Frank Pedley, "The Darwin Theory;" and also one by Mr. Dalpi. The following subjects have been debated during the present session:—"The Abolition of the House of Lords," "Reciprocity between United States and Canada," "Would the passing of the Scott Act be beneficial to Canada," "Should Canada elect her own Governor-General," which were decided in favor of the affirmative, and "Should the German system of examination be substituted for that in use in Canada," "Are the mental capacities of the male sex superior to those of the female," "The Annexation of Jamaica," "Is the existence of parties in the State beneficial to the public welfare," which were decided negatively. The Constitution, Rules of Order and By-Laws are

about to be reprinted, several changes having been made since the formation of the society. According to the present regulations all undergraduates are eligible for membership; thus allowing students in the Medical Faculty to become members. The result is that already some have become enrolled and not a small amount of talent, it is expected, will be added to the debating power of the society. The Faculty have insisted that all subjects shall be submitted to the Principal for his approval before being debated. Professor Harrington will deliver an address to the society some time in January.

The closing meeting of the term was held December 5th, and although the proximity of the Christmas Examinations caused a diminution in the attendance, the evening was a success in other respects. A reading from Mr. Yates was followed by an interesting debate on the questions "Should the Canadian Universities be represented in Parliament," The speakers on the affirmative side were Messrs. W. A. Cameron, C. Ross and Mason, those on the negative side being Messrs. C. W. Colby, R. S. Hill, and G. F. Calder. The vote was decided in favor of the affirmative. Two features of the debate are worthy of note. Mr. Calder, who was kind enough to supply the place of an absent speaker, and did so most ably, remarked that he was speaking in opposition to his convictions, and impressed upon the members the necessity of filling their appointed places in debates regardless of private opinions. The other feature was the exceptionally good manner in which the younger speakers stated their arguments. Upon the whole the meetings up to the present have been very successful; but lately there has been an unwillingness on the part of members to turn up unless their names are on the programme. This, as the President pointed out at the last meeting, is a great mistake; for those who refuse to listen while others do the talking, will find slim audiences when their turn comes, and besides, it is much more invigorating, and better practice to face a large than a small number of hearers.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

The meeting of this society on Dec. 5 was occupied with a discussion of the question, "Should restrictions be placed upon the admission of the Chinese into Canada?" Messrs. J. P. Cooke and Barnard supported the affirmative, and Messrs. W. E. Dickson and C. J. Doherty the negative, the former arguing that, because of their exclusiveness, attachment to China, and immorality, the Chinese made bad citizens, the latter pleading that the question was one of simple right and wrong, and denying the right of Canada, or any country, to exclude these people. The negative side also denied with weight of authority the allegations made against the Chinese by their opponents, claiming for the whole nation honesty, industry, and morality. The meeting which was unusually large, decided the question in the negative, after hearing several volunteer speakers.

The libraries of the largest Law Colleges are:—Michigan, 4,120 vols.; Hamilton College, 5,000; Columbia, 7,500; Yale, 8,000; and Harvard, 21,000.

College World.

Brown University has fallen here to \$50,000.

Ohio Wesleyan University has a Chinese girl.

The Iowa State Agricultural College is lighted by electricity.

The wealthiest college in the world is located at Leyden, Holland.

The total value of Columbia College was recently estimated at \$6,000,000.

The Senior class at Cornell has assessed each member \$13 to pay expenses of class day.

At Princeton College, students are allowed twenty-five unexcused absences in each term.

At Amherst and Kenyon, students who obtain an average rank of 75 per cent. are excused from examination on that subject at the end of the term.

Vanderbilt has given \$5,000,000 to the college of Physicians and Surgeons, in New York, for the erection of more convenient and commodious buildings.

At Harvard no man is allowed to compete in athletic exercises until he has undergone a physical examination by Dr. Sargent, the gymnasium instructor.

The attendance at Ann Arbor, last year, was 1,594, at Columbia, 1,529; at Harvard, 1,522; at Oberlin, 1,474; at Yale, 1,070; at University of Pennsylvania, 1,044.

The library at Columbia has been open all summer, from early morn till ten at night, for the benefit of those who wished to continue their studies during the vacation.

The Freshman class at Cornell numbers 213. That of Hamilton has dropped to 45. Yale numbers 145, Harvard 223, Bowdoin 39 and University of Wisconsin 25.

The De Pauw University, at Greencastle, Indiana, is to have eight new buildings. One each for the department of law medicine and theology, two dormitories and other structures. They are to be erected immediately.

The new gymnasium, which by the kindness of an alumnus has been recently erected at Amherst, is 120 feet long by 80 feet wide, and with equipments, cost about \$85,000. Amherst was the first college originating, and is the only one which has been able to maintain a regular and required system of gymnastic discipline for a full students.

A graduate of Edinburg computes the cost of living at that University as follows:—

Lodging, at 15s. a week,	\$189 28
Incidentals, weekly, \$1.50	73 00
University Fees,	45 00
Matriculation,	4 86
Clothing, say,	80 00
In a medical class, the items \$45.90 and \$4.86, must be replaced by \$131.10, making the total in that case \$478.65.	
between the lectures.	

DURING the present year the convocation of Oxford University has decided, by a vote of 464 to 321, to admit woman to a participation in the honor examinations. Canon Liddon was strongly opposed to the measure, and his influence was hurtful to the proposition. Arguments against the higher education of woman were drawn from isolated texts of Scripture.

The election of officers for the Queen's College, Kingston, "Alma Mater Society," was held Dec. 6th and resulted as follows:—President, F. Mowat; vice-president, W. J. Kidd; secretary, J. Foxton; asst.-sec., W. Rankin; treasurer, N. H. Dunning; critic, C. J. Cameron; committee, A. D. Cartwright, H. Dane, E. Pirie, S. Richards, Gordon Smith.

Toronto University has 114 freshmen this year.

About ninety new students entered Vassar this fall.

An American college is to be established at Shanghai, China.

Mount Allison College has recently opened a new Memorial Hall.

The faculty of Yale has warned fifty sophomores on account of low standing.

Princeton is to have a Latin comedy presented by the students in the near future.

Of eight \$200 scholarships recently awarded at Cornell four went to lady students.

Every member of the Faculty of Amherst College is an alumnus of that institution.

The Catholic Colleges of the United States have 500 professors and 10,000 students.

Harvard has now 167 teachers, 25 librarians, proctors, and other officers, and 1522 students.

The publication of the Yale *Quip* has been discontinued, on account of lack of support.

The University of Madras has graduated 899 students, of whom not one has been a Christian.

Free trade is taught at Williamson, Yale, Harvard and Amherst. Princeton is undecided which to teach.

Harvard has adopted the liberal plan of giving its professors one year in every seven for private study.

The whole number of students in the collegiate departments of the colleges in the United States is 32,000.

Dalhousie Law College now boasts of 2 Professors, 6 Lecturers, and a Library of between 4,000 and 5,000 volumes.

Two new universities are to be established in Dakota, Dakota University at Mitchell, and Tower University at Tower City.

The average age of the Freshman class at Yale is nineteen years and one month. Fifteen per cent of them use tobacco.

It is proposed that a Chair in Political Economy be founded in Queen's College, Kingston, called the John A. McDonald Chair.

A Harvard graduate in London is agitating the scheme of sending an American intercollegiate football team to England.

THERE are twenty American girls studying at the University of Zurich. They are admitted upon equal terms with the male students.

Of the 320 colleges and universities in the United States, but 24 have more than 200 students, and only 17 have more than 20 teachers.

German is the most popular language at Yale, and the number who take it exceeds the number of those who chose the ancient languages.

A THOUSAND dollar scholarship has just been given to Dartmouth on the condition that no one shall receive the benefit of it who uses liquors or tobacco.

A SCHOLARSHIP to send a student abroad each year for a two years' study of Architecture, has been established by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In the United States there are 144 theological schools, with 624 instructors, and 4,793 students. There are 126 medical schools, with 1,649 professors, and 14,536 students.

THERE are thirty-one colored students in the Freshman classes at Yale. Of these seven are students in Law, eleven Divinity, and the remaining thirteen Medicine.

In the new Oriental College, in England, affairs are arranged in such a manner that whether the student is a Hindoo or Musselman, he can live in his own way, as though at home in India.

Charles Colby has given a round \$1,000,000 to establish a new university in Wisconsin. It was his father, Gardiner Colby, who endowed Colby College, at Waterville, Maine.

The students of Harvard have presented a petition to the Overseers asking that for students of twenty-one and older, attendance on prayers be not compulsory, nor for younger students unless their guardians so desire.

The five hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the University of Heidelberg occurs in 1886, and preparations are already being made for its celebration, which promises to be one of the most imposing ever seen in Germany.

Mr. Kingsford, a graduate and member of Toronto University Senate has given notice that he will introduce a motion recommending the Senate to allow \$50 a year to the *'Varsity*, for publishing the official reports of the Senate's meetings.

An extraordinary example of vandalism recently occurred at Harvard. One morning, not long ago, the newly erected statue of John Harvard was found to have been covered with a coat of black paint, and the Appleton Chapel was adorned with the inscription "88" in letters four feet long.

He was sitting at the window
As she fell:
I think it was a sin; do
You as well?
He turned not away his head—
They were silk, and coloured red,
Don't you tell.—*Ex.*

ADAPTED TO THE SEASON.

Who can tell what a Freshman thinks?
Who can fathom the gossamer links
By which the manikin feels his way
From darkness into the light of day,
Gleefully entering the great unknown
Region of Greek and Latin and Bohn?—*Student.*

CONFESSION.

"Tell me this," he softly murmured,
"Do you love me true?"
And she answered, shyly blushing,
"Love you? yes, I do."
Turning then his glance upon her,
Solemnly and slow:
"Thanks," he answered absently,
"I only wished to know."
—*Polystechne.*

Between the Lectu es.

AN ELEGY IN A CITY BONEYARD.

That cowbell tolls the hour of parting day,
The loathing herd wind sallow down to tea.
The ploughed-on homeward plods his beery way,
And leaves the world to Cook, the dog, and me.

Fade now the glittering gas-jets out of sight,
And all the air an odourous stillness hath.
Save where the guinea-pigs and rabbits fight,
And drowsy tad-poles wriggle in their bath.

Save that in yon ammonia-scented room,
The moping Cook doth to the Dean complain
Of such as wandering near that fragrant tomb
Molest his secret, sub-injecting reign.

Within those leaky tanks, those pickling vats,
Well salted down in ZnCl₂,
Each in his narrow cell the prey of rats,
There slumber Xmas Xmas not a few.

The tempting scent of onion-breathing fry,
The tom-cat squalling from the cork-wood shed
The cook's shrill "Breakfast!" or the horn of rye
No more shall rouse them from their lowly bed.

For them no more th' arthritic pains return,
Or strumous glands engage their every care,
From them the Freshman's part 'twill be to learn
To carve their tissues and lay structures bare.

Of did their tumors to the scalpel yield,
The r femurs of MacEwan's chisel broke;
What curious reflexes their limbs revealed
When brought in with an apoplectic stroke!

Let not the Freshmen mock their useful sphere,
Nor their unshaven face and bak'd shins snub,
Nor Finals tell with a disdainful sneer,
The short and simple annals of a sub.

Not theirs to ride in Tees' or Armstrong's hearse,
O'er them no pompous ostrich feathers wave,
No tombstone bears their virtues writ in verse,
The elevator leads not to the grave.

Can Poker, Nap, or Crimson-painting bust
Back to its thorax call the Cheyne-stokes breath?
Can Captain's voice seduce the thirstless dust,
Or Cavalho soothe the gastric juice of death?

Perhaps thro' this sequestered spot is strewn,
Some heart, of mital murmur now long dead,
Lungs, that the rates of phthisis might have shown,
And waked to ecstasy the listening med.

Some Martin, through whose fistula dry d essed,
No Beaumont watched the gastric juice at play,
Some Hayvern with four co-ivolutions blessed,
Some "crowlar case" within these walls may lay.

Full many a case of pure leukæmic skeen
Is hid perhaps in this unfathomed cave:
Full many a kidney suppurates unseen
And wastes its sweetness on a nameless grave.

Their names and years on greasy cards are spelt
Religion—P or R—is wrt there too,
The latter to supply a want long felt,
And teach sectarian larvae which to chew.

Of for his cough the Mist. Pect. Chron. we tried
Or would with four-grain drops his eyes instil;
Gave him galore of Potas : Iodid;
And filled him up with every sort of pill.

Haply some oft-plucked chronic then may say
"Oft have I seen him at the Oxford bar,
Brushing with hasty sleeve the froth away,
Or purchasing a two-for-five cigar."

"One night I missed him at the customed pub,
Beside the bar and near his favorite beer,
Another came; nor, when I went to grub,
Did he for hash, nor yet for pie appear."

The next from off a wood-sleigh ('twas his hearse)
We saw him through the Students' Entrance hauled,
Approach and read (I never read) the verse
Upon the wall in coloured crayon scrawled.

THE EPITAPH.

Here rests his head, this greasy coat beneath,
A youth to graveyard and to vault unknown:
No Burial Service solemnized his death—
The Demonstrator marked him for his own.

Large was his femur, and his landmarks clear,
Whiskey a liver did as large bestow.
And when he died he gave his corpse — I fear
'Twas all he had of chattels here below.

Correspondence.

To the Editors of the McGill College Gazette;

GENTLEMEN,—To even a casual observer, it must appear that the plea for the defendant set forth by your anonymous correspondent in a late issue is but a partial and incomplete one, dictated under the influence of a righteous indignation, rather than written with the intention of sifting the matter to the bottom. I desire in this communication to deal with the question merely in its legal aspect, feeling assured that Mr. Elder's "brief and manly speech" must have convinced any unprejudiced individual on the personal merits of the case.

It is hardly necessary for me to lay stress upon the fact that all civilized associations, meeting habitually or occasionally for the purpose of deliberation, have, in default of a constitution of their own, adopted as the basis of their transactions the Parliamentary system of procedure existing in their country. Moreover, the persons who have contested Mr. Elder's election, having placed themselves on this basis, it is not incumbent upon me to undertake its defence.

The question then appears to me to resolve itself into two parts. Firstly, was Mr. Elder's election to the office of Chairman of the Annual Dinner of the Faculty of Medicine duly and legally conducted, or the reverse? Secondly, if the former alternative were true, could the election be annulled?

With reference to the first point, the facts are as follows: On Monday, Nov. 10th, a notice appeared on the bulletin-board of the Medical Faculty, signed by the President of the fourth year, calling a meeting of the students of the Faculty for 5 o'clock p.m., in the Chemistry Lecture-room, to elect the Chairman of the Annual Dinner. The meeting was held at the appointed hour and in the locality named, there being a full attendance of students. Two nominations were finally agreed upon—Mr. Elder's and Mr. McCann's. Here, then, at this stage of the proceedings, or never, should objections, either of a general or of a personal

nature, have been raised against the election of either candidate. The opportunity was certainly offered, yet no one ventured even the slightest disparaging remark. The point raised at the subsequent meeting, viz., that Mr. Elder was a member of a secret society was not even alluded to. Why not? Surely if it were admissible to raise this objection after the election, it would have been all the more relevant before it. Looked at from this point of view it certainly has the appearance of an after-thought, concocted by a minority chafing under defeat and at their wits' ends for arguments. To return to the meeting. The Chairman then called for a division, and the resulting vote gave a large majority to Mr. Elder, after which the meeting dispersed. No comments on these facts are necessary; it must be patent to the most sceptical that such an election was from every conceivable point of view valid and binding.

Secondly, could the election of Mr. Elder, granting its validity, be annulled? This, gentlemen, is what Mr. Elder's opponents call their strong point, but which I venture to term their stumbling-block. They invoke with great circumstance the Parliamentary procedure of Canada; I do likewise. They tell us that a resolution, or question, or motion, may be rescinded or reconsidered. All this I grant, and more, for I am quite willing to waive the doubtful question of who have the power to propose reconsiderations of motions, questions, or resolutions. There is no question here whatever of motions, questions, or resolutions. Nominations and elections are not made and carried in the form of motions or resolutions, and were not so made and carried at the meeting of Nov. 10th. Consequently, the mass of evidence drawn from Todd, Bourinot, and Cushing, and adduced by Mr. Elder's opponents in support of the rescinding or reconsideration of motions, falls to the ground as entirely irrelevant.

It is purely and simply a contested election case. Now, I in my turn shall apply parliamentary procedure to the case, but more to the point I trust than the gentleman aforementioned have done. The medical students, having no constitution or by-laws framed for their use in elections and other matters, must therefore rely, (as I pointed out above) on parliamentary procedure. What does this procedure say? I quote from the "Controverted Elections Act of 1874," (37 Vict. Cap. 10, Sec. 63)—"*All elections held after the passing of this act shall be subjected to the provisions thereof, and shall not be questioned otherwise than in accordance therewith.*"

Now what are the objections that may be raised against the return of a candidate? The Act states "corrupt practices" during the election. Did any such exist at Mr. Elder's election. Surely it will not be urged that an attempt to convince an individual that our candidate is preferable to another is a "corrupt practice." Otherwise one would have to admit that ninety-nine hundredths of the present commercial, municipal, and political elections are actually illegal. Again the Act does not include as a "corrupt practice" that of being a member of a secret society at the time of election, and not even a fanatical clergy has succeeded in persuading the people of Canada that such an offence is a sufficient cause of disqualification for

election. On no legal grounds then could Mr. Elder's election be annulled.

To sum up—Mr. Elder's was duly elected by a majority of students; this election was binding unless foul means had been used to secure the election; I have proved that no foul means were so made use of and consequently that Mr. Elder is at this moment just as much elected to the office of Chairman of the Annual Dinner as he was on Nov. 10th at 6 o'clock p.m. This, gentlemen, is the argument of the defence. I have stated the case as it appears to me after mature deliberation, and as dispassionately as possible, I have incriminated no one, I have not even attempted to defend a friend from virulent accusations and personal insults, but I have attempted to show that a crying injustice has been done to him in duly electing him to an honourable position and then, in defiance of the rules which govern all civilized associations, degrading him from office without even allowing him the privilege of a voluntary resignation. To others who possess greater the rhetorical powers and a greater command of pathos I leave the task of expressing the scorn and contempt they feel for the doings of a certain clique who have shewn themselves ignorant not only of the most elementary forms of procedure but even of the commonest rules of courtesy and gentleman bearing.

The chief object then of this communication is not so much to bring the blush of shame to the faces of the guilty parties, nor yet to attempt the redress of a grievance which is now past all remedy, but if possible to establish a precedent which shall in future preclude the possibility of occurrence of a similar nature, which can have no other effect than that of causing much ill-feeling where a little consideration and less haste would bring about that harmony which should exist between individuals engaged in the same pursuits and living in a manner under our roof. In conclusion, gentlemen, supported as I am by authority of undoubted reliability I have no hesitation in subscribing myself, as every correspondent should, by my own name.

HENRI A. LAFLÈUR.

Editors McGill Gazette:—

SIRs.—Permit me to take exception to a portion of your editorial remarks in last issue headed "Mediæval Wisdom." First, as to the action of the Faculty. The rule of submitting the questions for debate to the Faculty is not a new thing, and the undergraduates were reminded of its existence in the most courteous way possible, so that upon the necessary explanations being given, the society quietly acquiesced. The Faculty have a perfect right to a direct control over the proceedings of the Undergraduates Society when they both provide the hall in which its meetings are held, and are responsible for the general conduct of its members as students. A dictatorial mandate would undoubtedly have been highly offensive to the members, but the rule has been enforced in no such manner. Second, as to the action of the society. If submitting to constituted authority be "eating humble pie" then we must admit the soft impeachment, but if the present flourishing condition of the society is due to the energetic policy pursued by the undergraduates

(and I for one believe so), then it is fair to assume that the members considered themselves acting in the best interests of the society, and therefore their conduct does not call for criticism. If "there was a time when rather than to submit to a similar injunction a college society allowed itself to be driven from the walls of McGill" then the wisdom of the step is open to question when we consider the present languishing condition of that society which is ironically termed "University" Literary Society. No sensible man objects to candid criticism particularly, when, as in the present case, it emanates from a friendly source, and I am sure any *advice* which you, Messrs. Editors, have to offer will always be received with pleasure. But there are many, and I confess myself amongst the number, who object to dictation from those who are not pointing out any method of making the Undergraduates' Society any more successful than it is at present, and who, content themselves with vague condemnation without a full knowledge of the circumstances. Let the shoemaker stick to his last. When the Undergraduates' Society undertakes to instruct the Editors of the GAZETTE, as to how they shall manage their paper, it will be time enough for the GAZETTE to expend its eloquence in teaching the undergraduates the value of

FREE SPEECH.

MCGILL COLLEGE, Dec. 9, 1884.

Editors McGill Gazette:—

DEAR SIRS,—“In this life we want nothing but Facts, sir, nothing but Facts.” Let me personate the character of that individual who in Dickens' *Hard Times*, gave utterance to the above quotation, and upon the basis of *facts* alone, refute the slanderous statements made in your last issue regarding the “unhappy differences” between the Medicals. The action to unseat Mr. Elder was taken, not upon personal grounds and only indirectly because he is a member of a Secret Society; but it was taken exclusively upon the grounds stated by the mover of the re-consideration *before the whole School*, viz., that last year, before we were aware of the existence of this Society, its members, by pre-arranged plans, nominated to positions on the Dinner Committee their own *confères*, and such was the general good feeling, that those nominees were elected almost to a man without an election contest. Thus by apparent subterfuge, the Dinner was controlled by the members of this faction—in itself a foul blot upon the fellow-feeling that should exist between students—and I challenge anyone to find upon the *Ménu-card* of last year the name of a student who was not, or is not, a member of this society.

Thus it was that the majority of students feeling that there had been a gross usurpation of power, and no longer desiring to subscribe themselves as “tools” to a designing minority, unseated Mr. Elder, and elected one, who as we all know, fulfilled the duties of his position with credit to himself and the whole school.

VERITAS.

Editors McGill Gazette:—

DEAR SIRS.—We have just seen how good a dinner the Medical Faculty can get up, in the face of the so-called split amongst the students. What are the Arts men going to do in the matter? The subject of class dinners has not yet been broached, as far as I know, and if the second Faculty dinner is to take place this year it is time we began to think about it. Last year's was not a gigantic success, there being present about fifty students, not forty per cent. of the Arts Undergraduates. We ought to have a better one this session, and it would be a good idea to secure the co-operation of all the theological students, and thus make a rousing success of our dinner,

Yours,

UNDERGRADUATE.

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