

The
PORTFOLIO

October, 1893.

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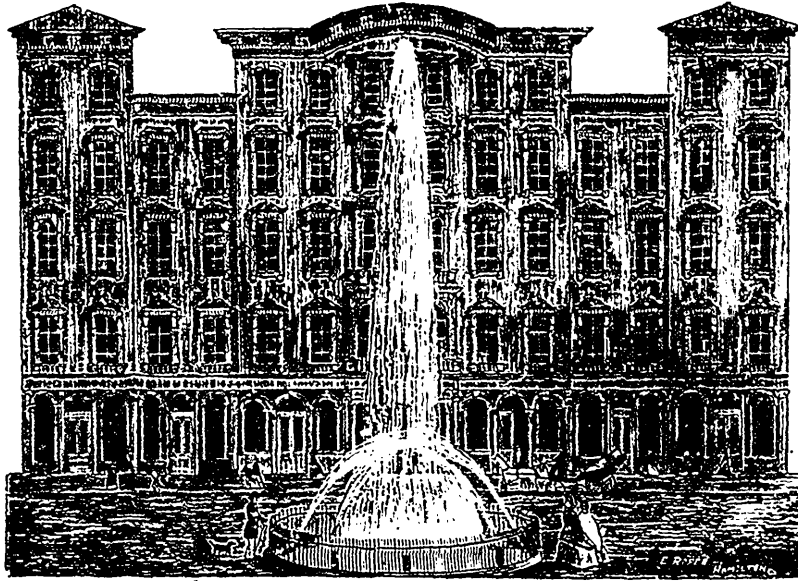
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THE PORTFOLIO

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EDITOR-IN CHIEF,	-	BESSIE BROWN.
ASSISTANT EDITORS	{	A. McFARLAND.
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LITERARY EDITOR,	-	H. WOODSWORTH.
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We invite correspondence and contributions from the Alumnæ and former Students

Notes.

Holidays are over, the time for summer recreation is past, and now with renewed vigor, we are settling down to the work of another year. A college year may be filled with a great deal of both profit and pleasure. Our minds may

be stored with knowledge which shall ever be a source of satisfaction to ourselves, and of benefit to others. New trains of thought may be awakened which shall assist in molding our whole after life. Of course we do not intend to transform ourselves into mere book-worms, for then the very object and end of our work would be defeated, unless indeed we selfishly wish to keep all the benefits of our reading to ourselves. We have now an opportunity of forming friendships which may be life long, and what school girl would willingly miss such a pleasure as this?

To some of us, as officers on the Portfolio staff, new duties and responsibilities have come, and although we realize that our work is far from being perfect, yet with Hubert in Scott's *Ivanhoe* we would we would remind our readers that "A man can but do his best."

We are glad to see that our College is taking advanced ground on the subject of reform in our present system of promotion by examination. It is well-known that throughout our schools and colleges generally the standing of the pupil is determined according to the results of the final examinations alone. But the evils of such a system may be readily perceived. A student may have done good work during the year, but on account of undue excitement or physical indisposition may fail to do himself credit on an examination; and woe be unto him if he fall short by one mark of the required $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or 50 per cent. as the case may be. On the other hand one who has continually neglected his work may take refuge in the thought that, through great effort at the end of the term, he will succeed in reaching the desired goal.

Note well Reading Matter at foot of Pages.

'Cramming! What student does not appreciate the awful significance of this expressive term? How it brings before his mind's eye, pictures of wretched creatures burning the midnight oil, sitting with wet cloths wrapped round their aching heads, and hot bricks applied to their feet. And is this receiving an education, this crowding into a few weeks or even days, study which should have been distributed through the year? Knowledge, (if indeed it may be dignified by such a title), acquired in this superficial manner evaporates when examinations are over like dew before the morning sun. We hope that before many years have passed away this barbarous system will have become a relic of bygone days.

Our faculty have decided this year to determine the standing of the students, not according to the results of the final examinations alone, but also according to their general work throughout the year. No pupil who attends her classes regularly, and faithfully performs her daily task need fear defeat next June. We hope that the example of our College will have its due effect upon other educational institutions.

What season so fully reveals to us the varied beauty and solemn grandeur of nature as do these Autumn months? What season brings such ennobling thoughts, such sacred feelings of admiration to the thoughtful mind and heart?

"The joy in harvest" is full of meaning to the faithful tiller of the soil. For months he has watched with anxious eye his grain and fruit, fearing lest sudden storm or long continued drought, or insect swarm should leave their dreaded blight. But now the golden grain is gathered in. The luscious grapes hanging in rich clusters on their vine, the red-cheeked apples stored away for future use, the green and blue and purple plums, the blooming peaches and juicy pears, rejoice their owner's heart. Nature seems to

have been utterly reckless in the lavish bestowal of her gifts, and now rejoicing pours forth her soul in one harmonious song. Who does not feel his soul stirred within him as he gazes upon the rich and gorgeous landscape. The trees beautiful when arrayed in green have donned a richer robe, in which they seem to bid farewell till Spring again shall send new life into their views.

But hark! amid the gladsome song, a strain of sadness falls upon our ear, the pensive voice of falling leaves, of fading flowers, of old and withered vines. Sad thoughts and tender feelings steal over us as we think of how but yesterday the trees put forth their shoots, how yesterday the seed was sown. All things seem now to speak of decay and death, and memories of loved ones passed away to rest since winter snows last disappeared, crowd in upon our minds. But again we are cheered by the glad thought that soon the bleak and wintry days shall have fled away, and nature again shall rejoice in renewed life and vigor. So when time shall have passed into eternity, may we meet again our friends who have left us here for awhile to face the storms of life.

And so we love these Autumn days, laden so richly with abundant gifts. But on they speed, not lingering long to cheer our hearts and minds.

Music.

"And music, too, dear music that can touch,
Beyond all else the soul that loves it much,
Now heard far off, so far as but to seem
Like the faint music of a dream."

From the first dawn of creation down to the present time, the sweet soul stirring influence has been felt by all humanity. It is not true, that man has no music in his soul. It is felt perhaps, more by some than others, but in every one, there his deep down in the heart a

feeling that rises in harmony with the music it loves. Every occupation, every art and science of life, has long had its own special music. This is, of necessity true, because music can never exercise its desired effect, unless it aims, not merely to charm the ear, but to touch the heart.

The simple air or lyric, which delights people of unpretentious minds, is not less music, than some of the grand productions of the great masters, for in some way, the harmonious sounds, seem to be in sympathy with those mysterious stirrings of the heart, those keen emotions, and strange yearnings after something indefinite, which enter more or less into every life. Music is a joy for all. To fully appreciate Science or Art, considerable training is required, and so without doubt the cultivated ear, more and more appreciates the beauty of harmony.

The power of music may be more forcibly impressed, by examples of its influence on "men of genius." Lord Bacon, it is said, had music played in the room adjoining his study; Curran, in preparing his mind for the business of the bar, spent whole hours in running over the strings of his violin. Milton received inspirations while listening to his organ, and Mozart on his death-bed exclaimed to his daughter, "Oh let me hear once more, those notes which have so long been my solace and delight."

The world is full of music, and there is not one discordant, unharmonious note in all the works of Creation. The noise of the Cataract is music, Niagara, as it boils along in rapid torrents, breaking and dashing its angry surges against contending rocks, plunging its raging billows over the towering precipice and into the noisy deep, speaks of a language (silent yet audible) "the hand that made us is Devine."

Hark how Creation's deep musical chorus,
Unintermitting, goes up into heaven,
Never the ocean-wave falters in flowing,
Never the little seed stops in its growing.

In the time of those primitive people whom we call savages, music was an enigma which could not be solved. Believing the fact that "Music has charms to soothe the savage breast," they introduced a kind of war-dance, accompanied by the beating of their instruments. This they performed around their afflicted brother whom they thought was possessed of an evil spirit. We still find, that what was true in past ages, is true to-day, for what will quiet a noisy multitude more quickly than the strains of sweet and familiar music.

The music of the Greeks was but poetry sung, and was thought to contain every influence, that would be of a refining nature, and that would aid in building up true and noble characters. We know that the Greeks, although they were a warlike nation, were noted for their culture and refinement. This was due to the fact that music was compulsory in the education of the Greek youth. In Rome, on the other hand, education was developed on the side of gymnastics and athletic exercises only, consequently they had no distinctive music of their own. They were pre-eminently, a martial race, and probably the music they most appreciated was the trumpet-call. In their early days, they were too much engrossed in war and conquest, and in latter times, too indifferent to cultivate the art among themselves.

About the time of Zero, Music became what might be termed fashionable in Rome, but they were not in earnest, and consequently no marks of musical culture were left by them.

To the Greeks, we owe much, hence, we must not imagine, that because music as it flourished among them, and made way for something better, its influence too, has gone, Far from it. We see rather in the rich legacy which it has bequeathed to us, the proof of the fact, that we are the "the heirs of all ages."

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Criticism of Class of '93.

As our thoughts wander over the College year now so near its close, pleasant recollections fill our minds, and with feelings of regret we realize that we must so soon bid farewell to our Seniors. How we shall miss them! For six months we have listened together to the words of wisdom as they fell from the lips of our honored teacher, Dr. Burns, while he discoursed to us on the truth of our sacred Christianity.

But, perhaps, nowhere shall we feel our loss more than in the Literary Society, for upon our shoulders will rest the responsibilities which they are laying aside. Let us hope that we may be able to perform our duties as efficiently as have our present Seniors.

Now that they are about to leave us, some to pursue their studies further, others to cheer and brighten their loved homes, we could wish for them nothing better than that their lives may be happy and useful and that their talents and opportunities may be devoted to the noblest ends.

But, although we may speak in highly complimentary terms of the girls, still, in criticising them, we would not overlook the fact that, like the rest of us, they have their faults and failings.

The first of our dignified Seniors to feel the weight of the criticising pen of a Junior is Miss Eleanore Moore. Eleanore is of a mild and loveable disposition, yet firm: what she says she means. Her unselfishness has won her hosts of friends who will ever remember her with gratitude and love. As a student she is thorough:—whatever she attempts is well done, as is shown by her high standing in her classes and the number of medals she has won. We are justly proud of the success that has crowned her efforts, in this, her closing year.

We cannot say her face is pretty but it is expressive, possessing a very prominent feature indicative of intelligence. A course in calisthenics might render the term "dignified" more appropriate. We ask you to look with us a few years into the future and see if you recognize in the calm, serene, and stately bearing of the precept-

ress of a Ladies' Seminary on the banks of the Sacramento the sweet girl graduate of Class of '93.

Perhaps the most active and jovial member of this class is Miss Louie DeCew, the president of our Society. Much of the success of the Society has been due to her untiring efforts in its behalf. In her class work Louie has been no less successful and her record during the period she has been a student here has been an extremely good one; she also having triumphantly carried off a gold medal.

Owing to her very lively disposition Louie is a favorite, not only among her classmates and young lady friends, but, I am afraid I must confess, among the young gentlemen also.

We predict for her a happy and prosperous future the center of a large circle of admiring friends, dispensing her smiles and ready wit for the enjoyment of all.

The quietness of manner, slowness of tread, gentleness of touch, drowsiness at time of dawn, and the usual habit of neatly ending up a conversation with an additional story or even a song:—these qualities will, I think, give us the general outline of the character of Miss Belle Fairfield. But we want to depict more than the outline of the character of this fair maiden, I think we shall find her as one who takes life easy, and who would, perhaps, with a little more exertion come out among the leading members of her class. But, like the majority in this world, Belle loves to suit herself and, consequently, much time is spent over story books while reclining on the lounge. Notwithstanding, she jogs along at a happy-go-lucky pace, retaining all the while the rosy bloom of beauty on her cheeks. But how much this worthy individual will be missed can only be felt by those to whom she was closely attached, for to them Belle has always willing to lend them a helping hand.

For this modest and unassuming girl we would predict a happy and contented lot. If not happy we should like to know why? Although not gifted with a face as handsome as some, and perhaps not winning a host of admirers, yet the one whom she does win should be capable of

appreciating all her intrinsic value and what is more, we should like to add by way of prophecy that the union will be attended by wealth and prosperity.

None, probably, of the class of '93 will feel more keenly the parting from her Alma Mater than Miss Rose Barker, since she has been longer connected with the College than any other member of the class. Her diligent application during her term here has met with merited success. On account of her studious habits and retiring and unassuming nature we have not become so intimately acquainted with her as with her classmates. Rose is perhaps the quietest of her class but 'still waters run deep.' While others are talking she is thinking or reading hence the fund of information is large. She is the one to whom the students appeal where general information is required and they never appeal in vain.

Another of our dignified and stately young ladies is Miss Georgia Clark. To know her is to love her, for by her aimable disposition she endears herself to her fellow students. One look at Georgia's countenance would tell us that she is a very determined girl, and not easily changed in her opinions. Although fond of her studies still it is not her intention to injure herself by too close application to her books.

To no one of the dignified Seniors could the epithet dignified be applied more appropriately than to Miss Ethel Lazier. All the girls will agree with me when I say that Ethel is reserved, but when we become acquainted with her, we learn to love her more each time we are with her.

Ethel is one of the prettiest of our pretty young ladies. Her sweet face with the deep hazel eyes, encircled by dark lashes, and above all her raven black hair with its pretty little love-locks on either side, excite our admiration. Besides being pretty, Ethel has something else which makes us proud of her, that is, her cleverness. We cannot, in passing fail, to notice the way in which she has worked. She is one of the few who are able to successfully put two years work into one, and win a gold medal in music besides.

With these accomplishments, and her winning ways, we predict a bright and

happy future for our young friend. We know that wherever she goes, she will win the hearts of those with whom she comes in contact. Although we have heard a whisper that she does not like the boys, yet we hope and expect she will change her opinion in the future.

Personals.

Miss Higginson spent Sunday at her home in Waterdown.

Miss Brown spent Sunday recently in Strabane.

Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong, of Olymphia cousins to Miss Amelia McFarland, paid her a visit this week.

Mr. Parks, who has held the position of Science-Master in our College so efficiently for the past month, has left to take a position in the Toronto University.

The Senior's had the advantage of hearing the lecture given by Mr. Chas. Cooke, of London, England, in the Central Presbyterian Church, last week.

Miss Georgie Clark, Miss Eleanore Moore and Miss Rose Barker, Class '93, are continuing their course of study at the Toronto University.

Miss Ada Chapelle, one of our last year's Sophomore's is also attending the 'Varsity.

We are pleased to welcome the new members of our Faculty, Miss Hicks, teacher of Moderns, Miss Callender, who has charge of the Elocution Department, and Mr. Tucker, Professor of Science. We hope to have with them a pleasant and successful year.

Two of our Seniors, the Misses McFarland and Brown, spent Sunday with friends. Miss Brown at her home in Caledonia, and Miss McFarland with friends in Toronto.

Locals.

"Crazy Cushion!"

"Tut! tut! girls!"

"Count Noses girls!"

Wallie—Woodstock.

"Oh! will he wear boots!?"

A heavenly body --Miss B—e.

Was it a Senior spelled coincide co-in-side?

A forgone conclusion—We will like our new Science Prof.

We are pleased to see our French Hall lassics have a new Callender.

It was the "noblest Senior of them all" who had a ride on the trolley.

Miss W— has a pen that will not spell well; it must be a Senior.

Fair critic (after the bawl) "wouldn't she just as soon sing as make that noise?"

"Far o'er the "Mountain" breaks the day too soon" says the sleepy student.

The silence of the Greek is not half as golden as that of the French table this term

Prof.—"Sweet maid tickle the bell."

Young Hopeful—"Did't you hear it laugh?"

Our Canadian as well as American members of the Senior Society will be pleased to hear of the election of President Brown.

Miss Haste—"What do I want?"

Miss Sharp—"Common sense" (she must have been at the World's Fair).

Misses S—g, S—r, B—e, must have heard that fish makes brains. They ate unsparingly and are anxiously awaiting results.

Miss J's oratorical powers are developing as was shown by her addresses Friday evening. She completely won the hearts of all but one of her hearers.

Something original you ask us to write,
We scarcely know how to begin,
'There's nothin' orig'nal 'bout us,
Unless 'tis original sin.

Miss A. (at Miss W's door.) "You are wanted in the office."

Miss W. (from the depth of her downy pillow), "Oh that I had been asleep."

Notice to emigrant agents:—Look out for a detachment of dignified and stately Seniors in togas and trencher caps, going east for Diplomatic and Medalistic purposes

A young lady on being asked in the Society, to give an impromptu speech, pleaded illness. We are pleased to learn that there are still hopes entertained for her recovery.

One Friday evening years and years ago a number of apparently bright students met in the *Hall* to study *Woodsworth's* poems. Having come to a very difficult passage, one of their number was asked an explanation thereof. She fell into a *Brown* study but failed in her attempt to solve the difficulty. To aid her some quoted from *Taylor*, others from poets of *Farlands*, but all attempts were futile, but after a very few suggestions from the fertile brain of *Bond*, the way was made plain. Some say these were Senior Students. It cannot be, they must have been Freshmen.

Exchanges.

Owing to the fact that the work of editing the Exchange column has passed into new and inexperienced hands, we wish to apologize for this month's shortcomings, but hope to do better in future.

* *

We read with much interest the account of the Trial Trip of the Ferris Wheel, in the Polytechnic. The writer of the article has our best wishes for "w(h)eal or woe"

* *

We have also received the *Sequoia*, and found it quite interesting.

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
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