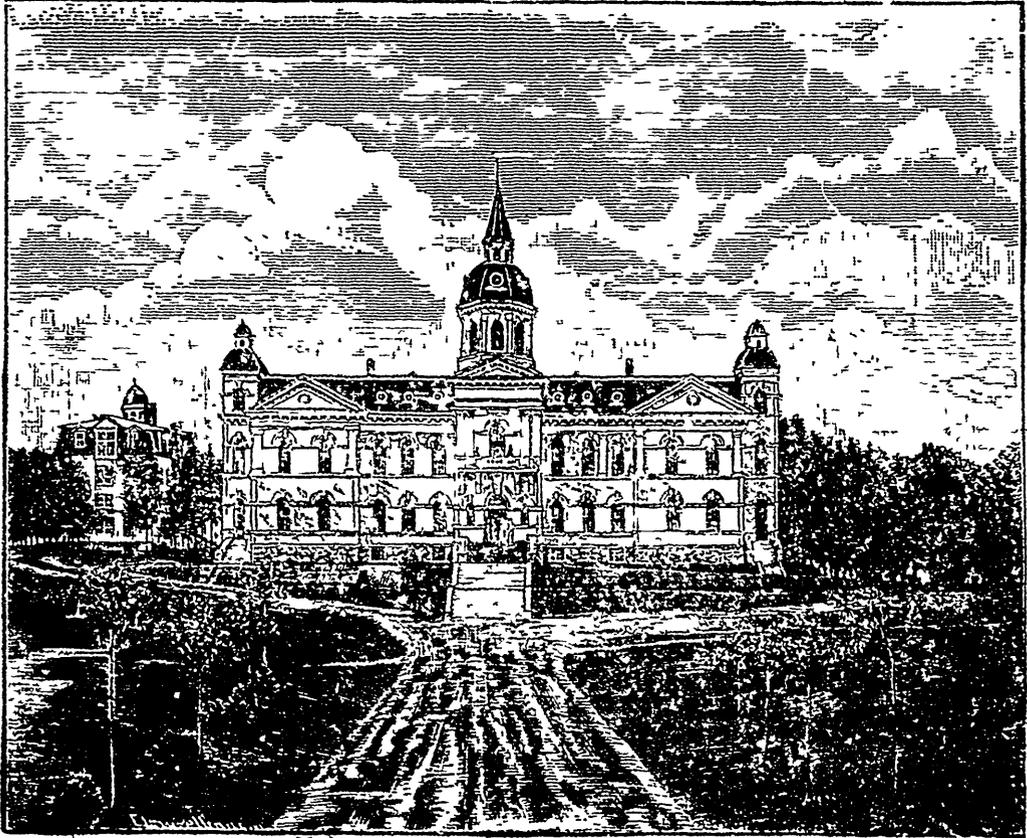


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THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

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VOL. 7.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., OCTOBER, 1880.

No. 1.

WHEAT-CORN AND CHAFF.

My little learning fadeth fast away,
And all the host of words and forms and rules
Bred in my teeming youth of books and schools
Dwindle to less and lighter; night and day
I dream of tasks undone, and lore forgot,
Seeming some sailor in the "ship of fools",
Some debtor owing what he cannot pay.
Some counner of old themes remember'd not.

Despise such small oblivion; 'tis the lot
Of human life, amid its chance and change,
To learn, and then unlearn; to seek and find
And then to lose familiars grown quite strango.
Store up, store wisdom's corn in heart and mind,
But fling the chaff on every winnowing wind.
—Tupper.

DARWIN AND DARWINISM.

Charles Darwin, son of Dr. Robert, and grandson of Dr. Erasmus Darwin, was born at Shrewsbury, in the west of England, on February 12th, 1809. During childhood he attended the public school of his native town, and when sixteen years of age, was sent to Edinburgh to attend the University. There he studied for two years, giving special attention to marine zoology. After leaving Edinburgh he went to Christ's College, Cambridge, from which institution he graduated A. B., in 1831, and took the honorary degree A. M., six years later. He early manifested a matured love and aptitude for the study of natural science, which disposition was observed by his instructors, so that when a naturalist was wanted for the surveying expedition of H. M. S. *Beagle*, in the South Seas, Mr. Darwin, through the recommendation of the Cambridge Professor of Botany, received the appointment. He volunteered his ser-

vices without pay, only stipulating that he should have at his own disposal his entire geological and zoological collections. During the voyage they visited South America, the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the Mauritius, returning to England in 1836. A few years later he published an account of the discoveries in Natural History made during the expedition, under the title "The voyage of a Naturalist." This is a very interesting and instructive book. In 1839 Mr. Darwin married Miss Emma Wedgewood, his cousin, by whom he has a large family. He made London his home till 1842, when he removed to his country seat at Down, in Kent, where he has ever since lived.

In appearance he is a tall, well formed man, and his portrait shows him to be slightly bald, with a full gray beard and a kindly eye.

Though continually suffering more or less from ill health, Darwin's whole life, since the close of his University career, has been devoted to the study and advancement of Natural Science. With a certain definite purpose in view, he has engaged in his favorite pursuit with an enthusiasm and tenacity of purpose that have necessarily been followed by successful results; for, waiving for the present the question whether he has been successful or not in demonstrating the great problem which he set out to prove, his searching investigations and patient experimenting have been the means of contributing very largely to the general stock of scientific knowledge. The results of his labors he has embodied in a number of books and numerous papers read before the several Scientific Societies

of which he is a member, and contributed to the leading English Magazines. In 1842 he published a very interesting work on "The Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs," in which his clear description of their formation, and of the habits of the strange little creatures that build those structures, showed that he had made the subject one of long and careful observation and study. Two years later appeared "Geological Observations on Volcanic Islands;" and in 1846 followed "Geological Observations on South America." In 1851 and 1853 he published his two volumes upon "The Family Cirripedia;" and in a short time two other volumes on the fossil species of the same class. In 1853 the Royal Society, of which he was made a member in 1834, bestowed upon him the Royal Medal; and in 1859 he was awarded the Wollaston Medal by the Geological Society.

Concluded next issue.

PUNY PRICKING PANG PRODUCING PESTS.

As I look over the few weeks of the past vacation spent in the country, memory holds up away above the buttermilk, the oatmeal porridge and the outrageously early breakfasts, those long and hard contests with insects of the genus *Culex*. I shall never forget the first raid they made upon me, though I live till "the almond tree flourish." Being very weary after the journeyings of the day, I easily yielded to the wooing of the drowsy god, and "tired nature" prevailed over pungent appeals until near day break. Just as our antipodes were watching the glory of the setting sun, I opened my eyes in a kind of stupor, and found myself the prey of myriads of winged pipers. With red hot needles in their boots and my face as a dancing floor, they were at the very acme of their bacchanalian revel. My blood wasn't A 1 at this time either, for it is the peculiar work of boils to improve the vital

fluid, and nature would not have sent five of these stalwart and energetic colonists to pitch their tents on my neck if it were already first class. Mosquitoes like a change of diet—that explains it.

With murderous intent I arose, but my experience did not differ from the thousands of others who have purposed the same slaughter. I endeavored to infuse a little poetry into the situation as I thought of Josh Billings hitting "the spot where the little grey cuss had sot." But it was almost a failure. I tried to enjoy the harmonious sounds. But I never cared for a *sting* band. This is not chargeable to the unseasonable hour at which such bands usually play, for I have given them a fair trial during every hour of the twenty four. The music, considered absolutely, may be of the most artistic and enchanting kind, but I have never been able, so far to forget the sequence, as to appreciate it even in a small degree. It is all in vain to urge upon me to look at the matter in a philosophical way. The music may be excellent, I admit, but I am not stoical enough to enjoy the prelude to my own funeral, let it be ever so good. Take the augers and pumps from these puncturing suckers, and let them keep their fiddles, and I'll guarantee to be among the appreciative listeners at their nocturnal serenades after a lapse of time sufficient to make me oblivious of past associations, and not till then. Doubtless the original design of their musical talents was that by their use they might secure undivided attention to the aesthetical part of their performance, or lull their victims to sleep that without opposition they might bore people to death. But this accomplishment is an injury rather than an advantage to these noxious insects as they go upon their gory errand in a country where they are known. By it they tell of their approach, and "to be forewarned is to be forearmed." If they could immigrate to some country upon whose soil none of their race ever set foot, this musical endowment would effect

its pristine object for a brief period at least, after which new territory could be sought with like prosperity. By making a short visit to every locality once during a generation, the blowing of trumpets would never act adversely, and the shedding of much second-hand blood would be prevented. These suggestions are made to mosquitoes gratuitously.

Shortly after the encounter above mentioned, I started for the sea shore. Stopping one afternoon at a humble inn in the depths of a hard-wood forest, I was so much pleased with the change of scene and the quiet of the place, that I decided to tarry there till the following day. At the time of sunset—and a beautiful sunset it was—I went abroad, according to my custom, for an evening stroll, putting "The Course of Time" in my pocket. The quietness of the place told that I was far from the marts of business. No sound was heard save that of a distant waterfall. Reclining beneath giant trees, I opened my poem at the 5th Book, and expected unusual enjoyment in perusing it within Nature's own temple. But alas! The *mali culices* find me. "There is society where none intrudes." *Horresco referrens*. Up my coat sleeves and pant legs, into my ears and nostrils, "Rode the six hundred." Truly it is for a short time only that genius can bury itself in solitude. Forth from that spot "untouched by hand of art," I marched with numerous attendants and hosts of flattering followers, at the sound of other "minstrels" than "brooks," and another "organ choir" besides "the voice of many waters."

But after all my hatred of these tuneful pests, I am willing to bear with them during each succeeding season in which they are wont to make predatory incursions, if only we can get rid of those venomous bipeds of the genus *homo* (wingless now and "ever shall be"), who have "all seasons for their own." Yet how vain the hope of ostracizing either! Let us see, then, to what moral use the afflictions can

be appropriated. I propose that we strive to learn from our failure to annihilate tormenting gnats, and from our useless endeavors to escape the sting of unruly tongues, that misery is increased without attendant advantage, by constantly warring with the trifling annoyances of life.

RYE.

LOYALTY TO ALMA MATER.

Every student who enjoys the advantages of college instruction, owes to his *Alma Mater* a debt of gratitude which can be paid only by unswerving loyalty. Few young men consider that the college confers favors upon its students, rather than receives favors from them. There are not wanting those who believe that they by their presence, pay the college, whose privileges they enjoy, a compliment and bring it under obligation. This idea is absurd. The money which a student pays into the college funds is only a trifle compared with the value received; and unless a young man considers himself of such consequence that the honor of his patronage is of immeasurable value, he must regard himself a debtor to his *Alma Mater*. For every dollar paid by the student in fees, many dollars are paid by the college to advance his interests. Schools are benevolent institutions in the broadest sense. The good of the rising generation is their aim, and not pecuniary advantage. In one sense every student in a public institution is a beneficiary, and receives far more than he pays for. Surely, then, every individual thus favored should cherish lively feelings of gratitude, and should improve every opportunity of increasing the influence, the resources, and the usefulness of the school. Its reputation should be defended, its excellencies lauded, and its weaknesses treated with charity. Indifference and passiveness are unpardonable; for indifference to the welfare of *Alma Mater* shows indifference to obligation and duty. Much more culpable is the spirit of those

who wilfully, or even thoughtlessly injure, the influence of their College by causeless fault finding. When graduates, or undergraduates, put no curb upon their tongues, but on all occasions, and before all persons, speak disparagingly of the college where they have been, or are, taught, they advertise themselves in a manner which should not increase their self-complacency; for people in general know pretty accurately what estimate to place upon a young man who ever rails at his *Alma Mater*.

Of course judicious criticism is often needed, and should not be withheld when the purpose is right. There are times in the history of every institution of learning when faults are committed. Sometimes measures are adopted whose influence is deleterious, or laxity in regard to things of moment is suffered to exist. In such cases the principle of loyalty to *Alma Mater* forbids indifference, or inaction, if the power to effect any change is under our control. But when we start out as reformers, motives should be carefully weighed, and personal feeling, together with every inclination to carp aimlessly, should be carefully excluded. Conviction should constrain to action, and impartial judgment should measure every word of complaint before it is uttered. When such regard as this is shown for any college, it will rapidly gain prestige and power, for a constantly increasing army defends, and a growing company exhibits, its merits, and, by their influence and means, turn streams of advantage in its direction.

OMEGA.

THE STUDY OF ENGLISH.

Whoever realizes the desirability of a thorough acquaintance with our own language, and knows what amount of attention is given to its study in our schools, primary and advanced, must be impressed with the fact that its importance as a branch of English education is practically underrated. The study of so-called higher branches in the common schools is well if pupils have

attained proficiency in elementary work; but one may safely affirm that the majority enter upon these studies without having laid the foundation of an intelligent knowledge of their mother tongue. They give proof of this by numerous gross errors in conversation, and their inability to write a grammatical letter. If there is any one thing which should receive *especial* prominence in primary schools it is the English language. A knowledge of the meaning of ordinary words, a full acquaintance with grammatical construction, and ability to write an exercise in composition with a good degree of perspicuity and correctness, should at least be expected of the older pupils. Let children who have studied history until they are able to recite it so as to surprise and delight spectators at a public examination, be asked to define the more uncommon words which they have repeated possibly with frequency, and more than likely they will show themselves to be ignorant of what the majority of these words mean. Nor is this to be wondered at, since school children are seldom taught to consult a dictionary. And let the school boy when he breaks a rule of syntax, be requested to state his error and make the correction, and ten to one he will be brought to a stand-still. Probably it has never occurred to him that grammar is a study eminently practical. Children ought to be taught to look up the meaning of all new words they meet, and be taught that while they learn grammar they should immediately and constantly appropriate their knowledge to the acquirement of correct speaking and writing.

Then in the common school the study of the English language only begins, no matter how great the proficiency there achieved. If the study under teachers goes no further the youth should become his own teacher, and improve himself by subsequent reading. If he enters College he should not do so with a feeling that he has outgrown this study, but that he has simply laid its foundation, and that it is for

him to make all future studies sources of improvement therein. If the school he just left has not done its duty by him in this respect, the demands he now makes upon the Collège are all the more urgent. No amount of success in other departments of learning can compensate for a meagre knowledge of his own tongue. It seems like a strange inversion for a student to write out full and correct answers to all the questions on an examination paper in Greek or Latin, and yet in writing these answers make numerous errors and display weakness in the use of the language he has been speaking all his life. Acknowledged masters should be read with care and discrimination by the student as part of his Collège course. They should be read in order to acquire an extensive vocabulary, the ability to discern slight shades of difference between approximate synonyms, and a habit of tracing words to their origin—than which habit there is none more productive of pleasure and profit. "Track a word that has been as familiar as a house-cat back to its derivative lair, and ten to one it will pay you in history, legend, poetry or preaching."

The success of one who aims to be a public speaker depends in no small degree upon his acquaintance with the language which is to be the messenger of his thought. Every effort put forth to attain thoroughness in this part of his training is sure of an inestimable reward. Whenever study to this end becomes general, the labors of preachers and lecturers will be less futile, inasmuch as speakers will then be better qualified to speak and hearers to hear. The influence of many a volume is annulled by an obscure and repulsive style. He who purposes writing a book had better abandon the project if he has not first learned to express himself with strength and perspicuity.

Those who control our educational interests should raise the English language higher on the list of studies than it has ever been hitherto. In the curricula of

our Colleges it needs to be lifted from an inferior to a superior place. *Alma Mater* puts no instrument into our hands which we are to use to such an extent, and it should send us forth capable of wielding it with power. Give us the mathematics, and the dead languages, and the philosophy, and the history, and the natural science in abundance, but above all give us a *mastery of our mother tongue* through critical study of the best English Classics. RYE.

Acknowledgments.

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☞ It is a great convenience for us to receive subscriptions as early in the year as possible; and as it cannot be any great inconvenience to subscribers to make the small remittance any time, we hope the half crowns will soon come rolling in from all quarters.

ANOTHER summer vacation is over. Colleges have resumed work, and summer-deserted churches are again open. Professional men and students, commercial men and idlers, have bid adieu to the mountains and the sea-side, the forests and the streams, and are getting under way with another year's work in their respective callings. Muscle has been developed and brains have been rested. Increased activity of body and mind may reasonably be expected.

Wolfville has been one of the attracting centres. "Gown" is again in "Town," and

"Town" has resumed "its customer—y application to business." New faces fill the places of ones now scattered widely. Probably the total number at our institutions will not differ much from last year. This session opens favorably. The appointment of Dr. Schurman is hailed as auspicious. There are few changes in the surroundings. The donning of college regalia brings with it show and dignity. May the year be one of unexampled prosperity without perturbation.

The ACADIA ATHENÆUM with this issue begins its seventh year. Of course we must make a bow and say that "no pains will be spared," etc.

Our readers must not be too exacting in their demands. Remember that this sheet represents a comparatively small portion of the work we have to perform. Our esteemed professors give us all we can do, and then we have to look after the ATHENÆUM during the time that's left. We'll promise our friends that we'll try and make a good use of that. So much for a salutatory.

WE believe that a new era has dawned upon our Literary Society. A feeling of individual responsibility seems widely spread, and the year opens with promise of interesting and profitable meetings. There can be no doubt but what important discipline may be obtained in our Athenæum, by all members who attend regularly, and who conscientiously perform the various parts assigned to them. Self-possession, fluency, and aptness in speaking, an accurate knowledge of Parliamentary rules, and a readiness in the transaction of such business as comes before bodies of men, can be obtained only by painstaking practice; and if any student overlooks, or undervalues the opportunity afforded him for gaining such accomplishments, and such knowledge, he makes a mistake which is not likely to be retrieved at any period of his life.

THERE is not sufficient musical enthusiasm amongst us, or, at least, what we have, be the quantity small or great, is not properly directed. Few college songs of an attractive sort are sung. At present, when many of us get together, the distinguishing characteristics of our singing are discord and clamor. This is not because there is any lack of musical talent, or taste, at Acadia, or because noise is mistaken for "a concord of sweet sounds;" but simply because we have no college song books, no glee clubs, and no unity of purpose in our musical performances. Why do we not awake and arise? Let us furnish ourselves with college song books. Perhaps, too, some of our poetical and musical geniuses may be able to produce some songs which will be distinctively our own. It is desirable that the time should speedily come when our impromptu concerts shall be more respected than they have been heretofore.

We are glad to notice that Mr. George Munro, publisher of the *Seaside Library* "offers this year seven Bursaries (each amounting to \$200.00 yearly) for competition at the Matriculation Examination" of Dalhousie College. It will be remembered that Mr. Munro founded a Professorship of Physics last year in the same Institution. Why is it that some of the rich men who have a deep interest in Acadia do not manifest it in a similar way? It is a pleasing fact that there is a growing tendency among monied men to dispose of their wealth for good purposes while they live rather than leave fortunes to be wrangled over after they are dead; and it is generally conceded that no better investment can be made of money than by giving it to increase the efficiency and add to the resources of a worthy institution of learning. We hope that some one of the many who profess love for our college and who have had a large measure of worldly prosperity, will do for Acadia what Mr. Munro has so handsomely done for our sis-

ter Institution. The influence of such donations is not a confined and transitory benefit, but indefinitely far-reaching in its effects for the general weal.

Persons have asked us why the prizes announced to be given by our College are not awarded with more regularity, and why certain prizes are not given, which the calendar represents as held for competition. To these questions we are not prepared to give satisfactory answers. Successful competition is not wanting, but the fund for this purpose seems to fluctuate between little and nothing. If at one time it is so low that the prizes cannot be given to the successful competitors at the time specified, they must wait till the coffers are replenished. When we look at the number of Acadia's Alumni, it would appear as though there is among them a general feeling that this system of awards is injurious, or, at least, not beneficial, and this is perhaps the proper view of the subject; but when prizes are offered they ought surely to be awarded if there are individuals deserving of them, and awarded at the proper time. Granting that such incentives to increased and persistent efforts among students are attended with real advantage, yet to do away with prizes altogether, is far preferable than to have the custom survive in tatters.

MANY of our readers have heard of the appointment of Dr. Schurman to the Chair of Rhetoric, Logic, and Political Economy in this College. This gentleman is a native of Prince Edward Island. After having spent two years at Prince of Wales college, and one year in teaching, he entered the Sophomore class at Acadia, in 1873, and remained here for two years. During those four years of study he showed himself to be no ordinary student, and gave promise of the success with which he has since met. In the competition for prizes he easily won.

The summer vacatic . of 1875 he spent in study with a view to competing for the Gilchrist Scholarship, which was opened to all students in the Dominion under 21 years of age. It was during this time that we had the pleasure of forming Mr. Schurman's acquaintance, and on one occasion of hearing him preach. While on his way back to Wolfville to complete his college course, he learned that he had been successful in competing for the Scholarship named. This secured for him the privilege of attending either London or Edinburgh University for three years, with a pecuniary allowance of £300 sterling. He chose London University, where he remained for two years, taking the A. B. degree at the expiration of this time, together with a Scholarship in Philosophy worth £60 sterling. He then went to Edinburgh University, there receiving the degree of Doctor of Science at the close of one year, and also receiving the M. A. degree from London University at the same time.

"The Hibbert 'Trust'" being open for competition to all students of all colleges, irrespective of age or place, Dr. Schurman entered the list and won. This Scholarship is given on the standing of the student in all the Schools, Colleges and Universities he has attended. It grants the privilege of two years study at any of the Universities of Europe, with the additional benefit of £200 sterling. Dr. S. spent this time among three famous Universities located in Heidelberg, Leipsic and Gottingen respectively. In addition to this extensive course of study, he made what is known as "The Great European Tour"—a tour of inestimable value to the real student.

It is a little more than five years since Dr. Schurman left Wolfville, and during the . erim he has made a brilliant record. His student life has been a continual series of wonderful successes. He has always had a strong constitution, and he still retains it. Inviting positions in large Ame-

rican Institutions have been offered him, but he chose rather to accept the one made by the Governors of this Institution. He has not yet appeared in our midst as we write, but will, doubtless, have entered upon his work among us before this reaches our readers. We wish the young Dr. every enjoyment in his new sphere of activity, and most sincerely hope that his career as a Professor in Acadia College will not be a short one.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

"Despise not small things." In this somewhat common saying is included the key to success. A close adherence to the fundamental truth of these words has been the means of raising men to the highest positions in life. Men, whom the world has delighted to honor, have based the chief source of their success on a thorough mastery of details. Wellington was one who understood thoroughly the secret of success. Nothing, however simple, escaped his careful consideration. The equipments of his troops and the preparation of their food was cared for in all their minutiae. The same exactness he introduced into his administration of civil affairs. This unflinching devotion unquestionably secured for him his many and decisive victories. The prospects of chance should find lodgment in no man's mind; but each should seek to anticipate any emergency and to provide for it. Many of our poets have spent years in perfecting poems which we can read in a few minutes. Into these the richest scholarship has been poured. Not one line, nor word has escaped without the most careful scrutiny. And this complete mastering of details can be produced only by the most protracted concentration of effort—by resolutely chaining one's thoughts to his theme, and beholding therein all the channels and little openings through which he may breath forth his mental vision.

Many have started in commercial enter-

prises with abundant resources and signally failed. Credit and friends were plenty at the start, but lack of aptitude for details led to wreck and failure, with loss of both friends and credit. A careful business man is methodical in all his plans, and looks well after the smallest details. The princely merchants who rose from humble surroundings to wealth and distinction were distinguished not only for shrewdness, but great executive ability.

On the careful examination of details depends the success of the student. His foundation should be based on the rudiments. A thorough mastery of everything however simple is his only key to success. Students who neglect the underlying principles soon find themselves involved in a network of difficulties which can be overcome only by mastering the elementary principles. A.

Voices from the Hill.

Wright's *Logic of Christian Evidences* is to be used by the Seniors in place of Dodge's work.

A Soph. there is, who stands afar,
And gazes at the Sem. with eyes and mouth ajar!
And as he looks he seems to say,
I wish it were Reception day.

Albert Coldwell, A. M., Mathematical Instructor in Horton Collegiate Academy, has during the past Summer been building a very handsome cottage. It will be ready for occupancy in a few days.

Dr. Welton's commodious and convenient dwelling house is rapidly approaching completion. It is the largest house in this beautiful County of Kings, and is certainly a great addition to Wolfville. The Dr. will have moved in before this appears in print. We congratulate the Dr. and wish him many long and happy years of domestic bliss in his new home.

It was very gratifying to see the first meeting of the ATHENÆUM so largely at-

tended. The officers for the present term were elected as follows :

Sydney Welton, President ;
H. W. Moore, Vice President ;
F. H. Knapp, Rec. Secretary ;
O. C. S. Wallace, Cor. Secretary ;
E. C. Whidden, Treasurer.

The following gentlemen constitute the Executive Committee: O. T. Daniels, I. W. Corey, E. A. McGee, R. H. Dodge and C. B. Meck.

The officers for the Missionary Society for the current year are :

O. C. S. Wallace, President ;
Mr. Peck, Vice President ;
A. Powell, Rec. Secretary ;
Miss C. Whidden, Treasurer.

The meetings of the society are to be held monthly as heretofore.

We are glad to announce that the door of our beloved Acadia has been thrown open to the ladies of our country, and there are already three studying in the Freshman class, one of whom, Miss Marshall, is taking the full Syllabus. We hope that at no distant day there will be at least an equal number of the fair sex in each class with the gentlemen, *i. e.*, a lady for each gentleman. We believe in the principle of co education.

The following papers have already been ordered for the Reading Room: *Christian Messenger, Christian Visitor, The Wesleyan, Daily Herald, Tri-weekly Herald, The Independent, Toronto Mail, Grip, Montreal Weekly Witness, Boston Advertiser, New York Tribune, Examiner and Chronicle, The Watchman, Christian Union, Harper's Monthly, St. John Telegraph, Monitor, etc., etc.* In addition to these a large number of papers are received as exchanges.

The members of the class of '71 particularly, and the public generally, will be gratified to learn that the Authorities are now erecting an observatory, on the com-

manding site about 50 rods to the rear of the College. It is octagonal in form, the foundation and the cross sections are of solid masonry, laid in mortar and cement. The building will be 15 feet 7 in. in diameter, 48 feet in circumference, and ten feet high, with a double dome, through the lower part of which there will be openings to admit the tube of the telescope, and so arranged that a view of the whole horizon can be obtained. The students, male and female, will soon be able to do their star gazing more conveniently.

The "cap and gown" question has at length been settled. No student is allowed to take his place in the College lecture halls without being clothed upon by his gown; and it is deemed essential that he should wear the prescribed College cap, going to and from lectures, or while moving about the campus in the capacity of a student. The change is generally approved of by the students. Some, however, who were seemingly elected from all eternity to find fault, and striving to make their election sure by growling in reference to this, in their estimation, unnecessary appendage.

All the rooms, save two, are now taken in the New Building. Where was during last year some confusion and irregularity in the building which could not be obviated on account of Collegians and Academicians occupying rooms under the same roof, without any separating wall; the Authorities erected during vacation a partition dividing the part occupied by the former from that occupied by the latter. The plan works to a charm, or rather guarantees charming work on the part of the students, and perfect satisfaction to those holding the reins of power. All we have to say is: We hope the middle wall of partition will long continue to divide the house.

Arthur W. Armstrong, A. B., Class '79, having been elected to the Vice Presidency of the Academy, entered upon the duties

of that office at the commencement of the present term. From what we know of Mr. Armstrong's scholarship, his tact for teaching, combined with his enthusiasm and diligence, we conclude that the Governors have shown wisdom in the appointment. We prophesy a pleasant and successful year for the Academy. No doubt a large class will matriculate into the College next June.

The article upon mosquitoes in another column leads us to call attention to the following scientific question which recently came under our notice, viz: "Why did a beneficent Creator endow the mosquito with the power of punctuation?" Scientists satisfactorily answer this by showing that "the sting of the mosquito effects a subcutaneous injection of quinine, and that these insects most abound where quinine is most needed." Of course we'll kill no more mosquitoes, but enter upon a free exchange of commodities with them—allowing them the carrying trade and the privilege of landing their goods *Sub Cute*. Observe that humanity must abide by the mosquito estimate of exports and imports. *☞ Notice to Mosquitoes.* Human blood given in exchange for quinine. Early calls solicited.

A CHARACTER.

With lordly strut he passes by;
His mouth with filthy oaths is filled;
He wisely winks his sensual eyes
And glories in his noble build.
He boastingly recounts the deeds
Both vile and virtuous by him done;
And even modestly concedes
That highest praise he's always won.
His whiskers loftly is stroked,
By fingers covered o'er with rings;
And from his brain so whiskey-soaked
The vilest jests he deftly brings.
O friends, it is not hard to find
A beast that looks much like a man!
A dirty ape, with filthy mind,
That proudly calls itself a man.

Omega.

Literary and Scientific Notes.

Mrs. Burnett is at work on a new novel.

Wilkie Collins styles his new novel "The Black Robe."

Dean Stanley is preparing for the press a series of Essays, and the volume will be named "Christian Institutions."

The name of Geikie, the well known author of a "Life of Christ," is pronounced as though spelt *Gikey*—*g* being hard.

Justin McCarthy brings the concluding volumes of the *History of our own Times* down to the close of Beaconsfield's late administration.

A new work on the scientific basis of Spiritualism is in preparation by Mr. Epes Sargent, who has thoroughly investigated the subject in a favorable light.

Here is a choice couplet from the "Cabinet Poems" of E. H. Munday:

"The youth is borne from battles brunt
With seven bullets in his front."
Such is—Poetry!

The latest news in the electric field is the reported invention of a method of applying electricity as a motive power on *elevated* railways.

John Lovell, of Montreal, has published his "Advanced Geography" for the use of schools and colleges. It is edited by a gentleman residing in Ontario.

Mr. Edison says that he has completely solved the problem of electric light. In the October number of the *North American Review*, he will state the advantage of electricity over gas, and explain how the new light is to be introduced.

M. Jules Verne is said to be planning a new book, "A Journey to the Land of Marble;" and by way of preparing to write it, he is visiting the province of Oran, to explore the marble quarries at Kleher,

In the publication of standard literature in cheap forms, considerable competition is awakened. The *Humboldt Library* by Fitzgerald & Co., N. Y. is the latest. Herbert Spencer's "Data of Ethics" and "Education, Intellectual, Moral, and Physical" are two of the works of this library which we have seen on sale at 15 cents each.

The brilliancy of the planet Jupiter will be greater in October than it has been for many years past. The large red spot on his disk,

which made its appearance in 1878, and which is a puzzle to astronomers, is still visible, and a host of telescopes throughout the country are directed to this object of interest.

Exchange & Review Notes.

Sometimes and somewhere we have received the tradition that a fighting editor is connected with all widely circulated dailies. This editor must be a man of prodigious muscle, that he may knock down any raw-boned country assailant whose ire has been excited; a dead-shot that he may properly "fix" any gentlemanly adherer to the "code" whose indignation has been roused; and, withal, versed in all arts of offensive, defensive and inexpensive, in order that every assailant may be matched, over-matched, and despatched, by this Hercules, while the pale, gaunt, spectacle, and inky-fingered literary editors pursue their work unmolested and unfeeling. And as we assume the duties of the Exchange Editor, we have a vague notion that some members of the fraternity to which we have just been introduced are to the college paper what the fighting editor is to the class of journals just named. Pugnacity is often displayed by the exchange man, and the way he pummels, and gores, and stamps upon, and tosses his adversary,—be that adversary never so lamb-like—is suggestive of a Spanish bull-fight—the victim being down and the bull raging. Whether we shall grow into such a thing of terror we cannot tell. Hitherto we have been a peaceful soul. We know little of boxing or fencing, or shooting. We are sure that if we had been Mr. William Tell, and had shot at the apple, both the apple and the boy would have been perfectly safe. With a rifle we could not hit the bull's-eye, unless the horrid beast held his head very still, and permitted us to place the muzzle of our deadly weapon close beneath his eyebrow. And perhaps with our pen we should be quite as void of skill. We cannot tell. At any rate we hope this is not to be a year of war and tumult. We extend a friendly hand to everyone, sincerely hoping that we may work together in peace, and that, with unity of purpose though possibly with diversity of opinion, we may seek to advance the interests of higher education.

Only one college paper has reached us, and that is the *Niagara Index*. It is a thoroughly readable number. "Hearts and roses" is as pretty as the name would lead us to expect. Some one who signs himself "Another Jack," commences a series of "Letters to a Freshman."

A poem on "Albums" awakens a responsive chord in our heart, and we feel like taking the writer by the hand and saying, "Brother, we have been there." "Office of the Press" is genuinely an American article. In showing that the press aids and protects free institutions, the writer assumes that monarchical Europe is altogether rotten, and republican America altogether sound. We quote one sentence:—"While Europe, from decrepit old age, chicanery, corruption, jealousy and tyranny, is fast tottering into an inglorious grave, our young republic steadily makes rapid progress in enlightenment and true civilization." We think that an impartial investigation of the political condition of the "young republic" will show that "chicanery, corruption, and jealousy are quite as rampant in the New World, as in the Old. The editorial headed "Public Schools a Failure" we read with more interest than approval. Something which Richard Grant White has said is taken as a text for a discourse implying, if not asserting, that common schools are so "radically defective" as to be "training schools of vice and crime." Such assertions cannot be proved. In fact they are contradicted by every day experience. The exchange editor occupies two columns in a rambling, but very amusing, statement of his "platform." He says he is peacefully inclined, but is ready to fight if there be adequate occasion. If we correctly interpret the unwritten part of his salutatory, he is a good-natured, fearless individual, who will have a warm clasp of the hand for friends, and a bear-like, bone-crushing hug for foes.

The September number of the *Canada School Journal* is quite up to the usual standard of excellence. Two articles especially attract our attention, one by Dr. Hodgins in "Over-pressure in Education," and the other by Dr. Grant, M. P., on "Gymnastics of the Brain." In this age of cramming, all warnings from every source should be regarded, and when men of learning and experience speak we should pay particular deference to their words.

Since our last issue the Wolfville *Star* has changed hands. Walter Barss, A. B. of the class of '80, became the editor and proprietor the first of July. We notice changes and improvements. The first page is devoted to Agriculture, and contains every week valuable articles upon practical subjects. The Sept. 15th number gives a description of Roger's Fishway, with four illustrative diagrams, which is a sample of Mr. Barss's enterprise. The "Acadiana" department contains much news, and will be an interesting column to the friends of our

institutions of learning. There is to be a scientific department henceforth in charge of A. J. Pineo, of the Senior Class, and an educational department. We wish Mr. Barss the largest success in his journalistic ventures.

A copy of the *American Newspaper Directory*, published by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., New York, lies before us. We have examined it with much pleasure. As a book of reference it is invaluable to those who may wish an accurate knowledge of the name, circulation, size, and character, of any newspaper published in the United States or Canada. The value of the book is increased by a description of the cities and towns in which papers are published.

Personals.

—[Any information respecting the location and employment of former students of Acadia will be thankfully received by the editor for this column.]

'80. C. R. B. Dodge and B. F. Simpson are pursuing their studies at the Baptist Theological Seminary Chicago.

'80. L. R. Shaffner is teaching at Lockhartville, Kings Co N. S.

'80. G. J. Coulter White is at his home, Hampton, N. B.

'80, Samuel N. Bentley has gone to fill an important position as master of a school in Mass., U. S.

'80. Walter Barss, is now editor and proprietor of the "Star," Wolfville.

'80. J. C. Archibald is studying at Newton Theological Seminary.

'80. C. E. Griffin is Principal of a school in the poetic land of Grand Pre.

'80. E. W. Sawyer is teaching at Port Hakesbury, N. S.

'80. G. W. Cox is at present stopping at his home, in Upper Stewiack, N. S.

'79. C. K. Harrington on his way to "Newton," made us a call on the 15th of September.

'79. H. A. Spencer, after a successful pastorate at Dartmouth, N. S. has resigned his position and gone to "New Am."

'78. Trueman Bishop has resigned his charge of the church at Tryon. P. E. I., and gone to Crozier, Chester, Pa., to pursue his studies.

'76. J. C. Redden has also resigned his pastorate and gone to Crozier for Theological instruction.

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