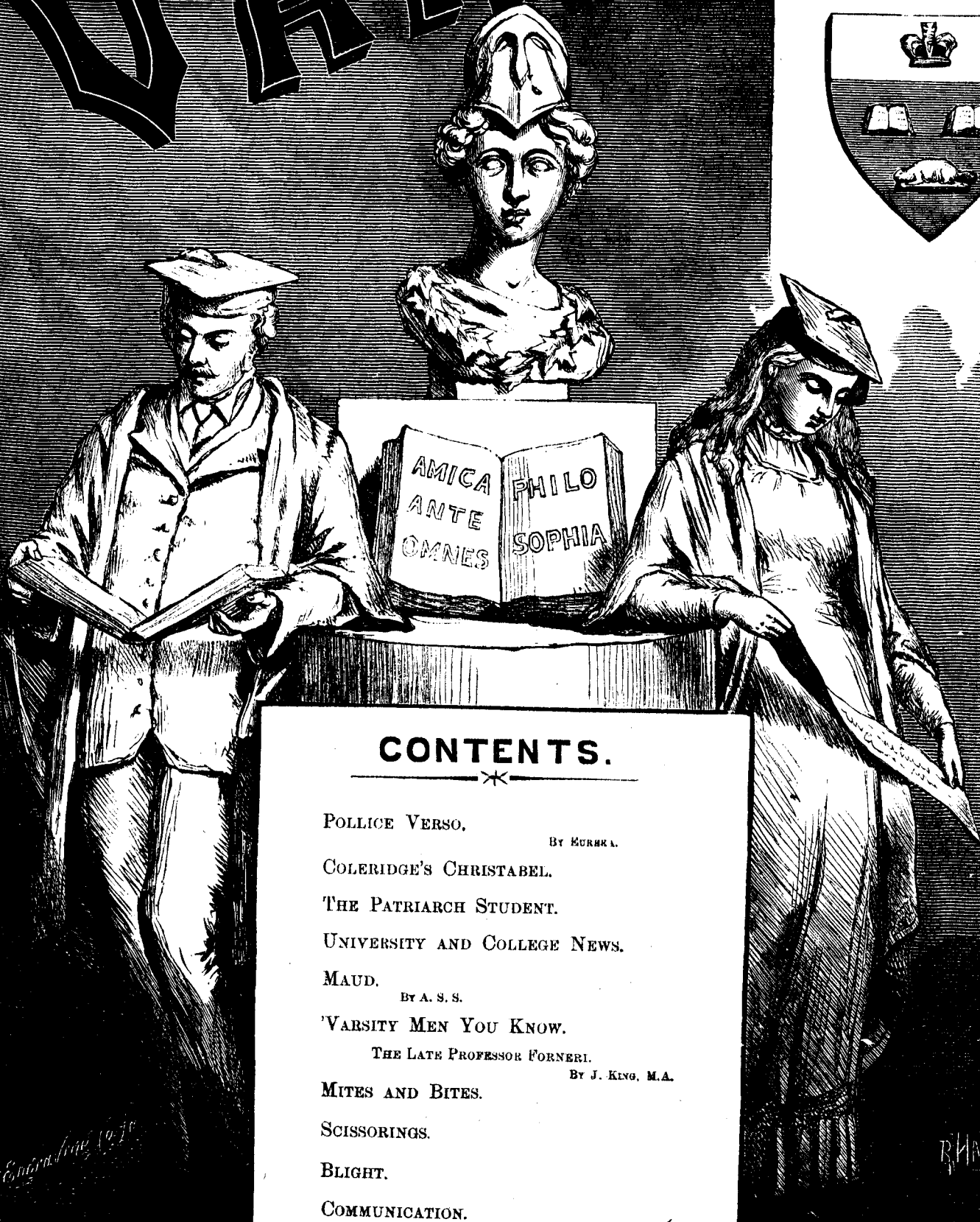


# THE VARSITY



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Toronto, - - April 16, 1881.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Gilchrist Scholarship Examination.

Intending candidates are reminded that they must send in their names, accompanied by certificates of age and character, to this Department on or before the 30th of April, 1881. The examination takes place

ON MONDAY, THE 20th JUNE, 1881.

Copies of the list of subjects in which candidates will be examined for the years 1881 and 1882 respectively can be obtained on application to the Department.

ARTHUR S. HARDY,  
Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Toronto, February 18th, 1881.

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# THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. I. No. 27

April 16, 1881.

Price 5 cts.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

During the progress of the College and University Examinations the 'Varsity will not be published. A number will be issued containing the results of the Examinations in the three faculties.

## POLLICE VERSO.

In the *Canada Educational Monthly* for October last there appeared a paper by Mr. Geo. Murray, of Montreal, headed 'Juvenal versus Gerome.' The writer did not happen to meet with the paper until some time after it appeared, and, being struck with its contents, investigated the matter for himself, and as it is a curiously controverted point, it may be of interest to your readers. The occasion of the paper referred to was Gerome's picture of a fight between a *Mirmillo* and a *Retiarius*, and the idea of Mr. Murray is that the suggestion of the picture is the death of the *Retiarius*. The fallen man appeals to the spectators, and especially to a gallery of women, who are spoken of by Mr. Murray as the vestal virgins, but who appear to us to be the ladies of the imperial household; they turn down their thumbs, and the title of the picture is *Pollice Verso*. Mr. Murray urges that if the suggestion is the death of the *Retiarius* the attitude is wrong. He claims that *pollice verso*, although in that case the proper title of the picture, does not mean 'thumbs down' but 'thumbs up.' He appeals to the following passages in support of his views:

Juvenal, Sat. 3, 36.—'Munera nunc edunt, et verso pollice vulgi quemlibet occidunt popularitum.'

Pliny, Book 28, chap. 5.—'Pollices, cum faveamus, premere etiam proverbio jubemur.'

Prudentius contra Symmach, 1097.—'Pectusque jacentis virgo modesta jubet converso pollice rumpi.'

Horace, 1 Epist., 18, 66.—'Fautor utroque tuum laudabit pollice ludum.'

He also refers to Whyte Melville's tale of *The Gladiators*, and Lord Lytton's *Last Days of Pompeii*. The latter dodges the point.

These quotations, which are well enough known, would certainly seem to prove that *pollicem vertere* is the unfavorable sign; *pollicem premere*, the favorable. Mr. Murray points out that Chamber's *Encyclopædia sub voce* 'Gladiator,' Hobhouse's note on Gladiators to illustrate canto iv. of Childe Harold, Ramsay's *Roman Antiquities*, Wilkin's *Roman Antiquities*, and Bohn's *Translation of Pliny*, all err in stating exactly the reverse. Smith's *Dictionary of Antiquities* and Appleton's *American Encyclopædia* will be found to agree with his own view.

Now, where shall we find what the ancients themselves understood by *pollice verso*? The only passage the writer has been able to find clearly explanatory of the attitude is in Quintilian, Book xi., chap. 3. *Fit et ille habitus qui esse in status pacificator solet, qui inclinatio in humerum dextrum capite, brachio ab aure protenso, manum infesto pollice extendit.* If any person will strike the attitude described he will find his thumb uppermost—upright—and as this is the *infestus* position, it describes *pollice verso*, that is, the thumb turned back. This is the view of Facciolati in his dictionary, who explains the matter thus: *In pollice erat favoris studique significatio—nam faventes premebant, aversantes improbantque vertebant retro et subrigebant.*

Facciolati also refers to a passage from Apuleius—Vol. I, p. 156, Ed. Valpy—which seems apposite: *Duobus infimis conclusis digitis ceteros eminentes porrigit et infesto pollice clementer subridens infit.* Adopt the position indicated, and the position of the thumb is the same as that described by Quintilian.

Gronovius explains the phrase *verso pollice* by a waving of the interlocked hands or thumbs over the head. Mr. Murray mentions Raperti's suggestion that the thumb was pointed towards the heart as a sign that the victim was to be stabbed there. We have seen *pollice presso*, on the other hand, explained as meaning to sheathe the sword. It does seem to us that the more natural meaning of *vertere* would be to 'turn down' instead of to 'turn back;' but we recollect in our days of

examinations that by a species of mnemonics the phrase which seemed to us more naturally to devote the man to 'down below' really meant to 'up above,' and hence we recollected the fact. We hope some gentleman who has looked into the point will give us the benefit of his investigation and explain, if he can, how *verso pollice* could be construed to mean 'thumbs down!'

With regard to the picture itself, is the suggestion death? The fight seems to have been a good one. Those who give the signal are women, and even in their worst days Roman women did not entirely lose their natural feelings; the crimes of Agrippina were committed for her son's sake; the infamous Julia was good natured although sarcastic; the mother of Caracalla loved her two ruffian children. In all ages, in all times feminine pity has been proverbial; true, we have had the *petroleuses* as we have had to-day the Russian *nihilistes*; but these were and are outbursts contrary to the rule of nature, and in the incident of the picture there was nothing to be gained by needless cruelty, while there is something repulsive in the very idea that women should desire the death of the wretch who has been conquered. Is this disgusting thought the suggestion of the picture? Is it true, as the writer has seen it stated, that the French school believes that *pollice verso* meant 'thumbs down?' Can any of your readers give us chapter and verse in support of that theory? Has the title *pollice verso* been applied by mistake; and is the *Retiarius* to be saved? Possibly some of your readers may be able to answer these questions. They are not to be despised. The first scene of *Romeo and Juliet* shows what a suggestive part of the human body is the thumb; and, as Mr. Murray says, although not now perhaps of much consequence whether it is turned up or down, it was a good deal of consequence to the unfortunate gladiator whose life depended on the sign.

## EUREKA.

THE system of distributing registered letters carried out by our post office authorities is no doubt wisely founded on the opinion of the chief officers entertain of the character of the carriers. Yet in comparison with the practice in England, where the carrier brings with him a book in which to obtain a receipt, and delivers the letter, our own is excessively inconvenient.

THE completion of a century since the publication of the *Kritik der Reinen Vernunft* seems a fitting time for a mark among metaphysical men. In 1781, right in the midst of the din of approaching political revolutions, came this revolution-worker in the realm of speculation; and here, in 1881, we are enjoying the fruits of both revolutions in comparative peace. Why should not the philosophic among our graduates and undergraduates celebrate the era in some way: a little symposium for instance, about commencement time? Again, in view of the terror the 'vulgar' commonly exhibit when any theme they are pleased to call 'metaphysical' is broached, would it not be well to start some sort of society for the discussion of such subjects after the pattern of the Natural Science Association; call it 'Philosophical,' 'Metaphysical,' or even 'Transcendental;' anything, in fact, to discourage the contemptuous classic.

THE *Crimson* has wisely said: 'Articles on weighty subjects, when published in a College paper, are compelled for very lack of room to be insufficient and fragmentary.' One might add to these defects a long list of charges, including bombast, superficial thought (and that rarely original), egotism, and a cheap sentimentalism. But it would be invidious and untrue to say that (according to its lights) the College paper is worse than any other form of newspaper. The *Cuckoo* is very likely right (in its prospectus) in holding that the era of leading articles is dead, and the day of the paragraph is at hand. Certainly about Examination time ponderous essays are revolting; and even the erotic rhymes of the *Crimson* are not to be tolerated.

A CURIOUS tale of attempted tyranny is told in this week's column of University and College News. Arbitrary rules have been laid down by professors in all parts of the country; teachers, with their short-lived

authority, strive to exercise a galling and unnecessary *espionage*, and parents—themselves, perhaps, fully alive to the horrors of autocracy—look calmly on. Carlyle ought to have lived in America to see what irresponsible rule, even by men who claim to be enlightened, must be in any case. A strange circumstance is, that while under a comparatively autocratic government, like that of Germany, a man's life at the University is his only taste of freedom; on this continent of representative institutions, that same life is a man's only period of thralldom.

SPEAKING of 'Metaphysics,' the Curriculum in Mental and Moral Science presents itself as a proper subject for criticism. When one comes to consider that this same Curriculum was concocted mainly by one whose reading was in a wholly different direction, viz., our late Vice-Chancellor, it is remarkable that most of its sins are those of omission. A Third Year man is not unlikely to think of Lorimer's Institutes as a glaring piece of committed iniquity; but after one has passed an examination on it, he usually feels that he would hardly wish to have never seen it. So one might say of the sickening eternity of the Nicomachean Ethics. But the great sin of Department V., after all, is the utter neglect of what may be called distinctively the philosophy of this half-century—the philosophy, too, that is most distinctively our own: in English—the philosophy of Evolution. The Senate have really no excuse. They revised the Curriculum not six months ago, and forgot a book so important and so full of meat as the *Data of Ethics*. Orthodoxy which allows Mill should scarcely be afraid of Spencer.

CRITICISING a critic is not necessarily defending the criticised. For instance, that is not the intention when one finds fault with the *Saturday Review* in its remarks on 'word-painting.' One can sympathise with the heartiest abuse of that most tiresome, cheap, and fruitless process of swelling out three volumes. One can even go farther and damn Black and his green-and-gold sunsets, without thinking scenery-description especially out of place in a classical story. The *Saturday Review* objects to it there because 'the face of nature was drawn with utmost simplicity by the Greek or Roman.' So it was. Savages, and indeed all but the most highly civilized, take no interest in the portrayal of anything but living creatures, particularly men. It is perfectly true that the love of landscape is of late growth; we have had our Michael Angelos and Raphaels centuries ago; but our perfect landscape painter is not born yet. But a classical story is, after all, written for us moderns; and if any one should become familiar enough with the details of classical life to give us a true picture of the landscape of Greece or Italy before Christ, by all means let us have it. Nothing could be more interesting. Alma-Tadema has shown us the interior; let some one find for us the exterior of the ancient world.

#### COLERIDGE'S CHRISTABEL.

The moon shines dim in the open air,  
And not a moonbeam enters here;  
But they without its light can see  
The chamber carved so curiously,  
Carved with figures strange and sweet,  
All made out of the carver's brain  
For a lady's chamber meet.  
The lamp, with twofold silver chain,  
Is fastened to an angel's feet.  
The silver lamp burns dead and dim;  
But Christabel the lamp will trim;  
She trimmed the lamp and made it bright,  
And left it swinging to and fro,  
While Geraldine in wretched plight  
Sank down upon the floor below.  
"O weary lady, Geraldine,  
I pray you drink this cordial wine;  
It is a wine of virtuous powers;  
My mother made it of wild flowers."  
"And will your mother pity me  
Who am a maiden most forlorn?"  
Christabel answered: "Woe is me,  
She died the hour that I was born."

Rara per ætherium fundit se Cynthia cœlum,  
Nec radios illic ulla fenestra capit;  
Haud tamen in visu stupuerunt secius illo;  
Arte laboratum tollat ut aula caput;

Ut stet opus signi multum, stent dœdala multa,  
Plurima quæ propriâ repperit arte faber,  
Digna puellarum niteant quibus atria circum  
Omnia; testa tamen dignior ipsa fuit.  
Illam bina dæx plantis argentea vincla  
Jungebant; raro flamma maligna micat;  
Nympha tamen testam nota jam suscitât arte;  
Illa novos ignes pendula rite ciet;  
At comes interea magno confecta dolore est,  
Inque solum corpus fusa nivale fluit;  
"Heu; nostro renoves artus" ait altera "vino;  
Dignum quale potens languida nympha bibat;  
Illud enim latos matrem petiisse per agros  
Et florum succos implicuisse ferunt."  
"Anne potest postræ, nostræ miserescere sortis,  
Terris quæ cunctis incomitata vagor?"  
Illa gemens "nuper natam me," rettulit "unum  
Tempus et heu matris funera vidit idem."

M. H.

#### OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

ENERGETIC advertisers of *Vegetine* have circulated a little sheet setting forth the invaluable properties of their concoction, and made attractive by little woodcuts of Canadian notabilities with biographical notes deliciously blended with remarks on the medicine. For example: 'Marquis of Lorne, Governor General. *It may be given to an infant with perfect safety.*' 'Hon. Edward Blake, leader of the Opposition, 1881. *Composed exclusively of barks.*' 'Hon. Alexander McKenzie, born January 28, 1822. *Best and most reliable purifier in the world.*'

THE United States and Canada both claim England as their mother-country. Washington was the father of his country; but alas! unhappy Canada never had a father, or, at all events, never knew who he was. Annexationists will triumphantly repeat, 'Tis a wise child, &c.'

'Six fly-papers, please,' said the old lady; and the intelligent chemist sent for half-a-dozen copies of the *'Varsity*.

THE examples of Thoreau and Wallace have not given Americans a taste for Biology; at all events they do not show it by very accurate naming: e.g., they call all invertebrate animals 'bugs.' Witness the following from an exchange:

Professor: 'What is a locus?'

Student: 'A locus is a little bug that lives among the trees.'

As the census enumerators have begun their work soon, it would save much time and annoyance if people would answer the questions promptly; and in order that they may be prepared, the following are some of the questions that may take a few moments to think over:

Do you eat soup with a knife or a spoon?

How often do you go to church, and what really brings you there, and have you paid your pew rent?

Has your mother-in-law freckles?

Have you paid your subscription to the *'Varsity*?

What do you think of co-education?

Do you consider that the students at University College require to be more closely supervised?

What is your opinion as to the amount of sympathy existing between Convocation and the Senate?

Do you deem the Debating Society to be in a prosperous condition; and do you think that the elections were properly conducted, and that they will have a beneficent effect on the exchequer of the society?

What, in your opinion, is the greatest use of scholarships, and do you think you stand a chance for some of the prizes offered if you happen to be the only competitor?

How often do you feed the cat?

CO-EDUCATION is considered to-day in nearly all our western colleges almost as a matter of course. The great opposition which is shown in the east to the education of men and women in the same colleges and classes, appears to most western people as wholly without reason.—*Illini*. Without thinking it 'wholly without reason,' one may yet point to these words to show how much our 'eastern' feeling is due to prejudice pure and simple.

DR. MARK HOPKINS makes a strong point against the hypothesis of evolution. 'Man is spoken of as originating from a monkey, as if it would be sufficient if some one man had thus originated. But it would not be sufficient. To secure the perpetuation of the species there must have been a simultaneous development of two persons—one of each sex—and the chances against this, from any mere tendency or operation of natural law, are beyond the power of computation.'—*School Journal*. A strong point rather against the claim that he has yet learned that 'nature doesn't jump.' Again, 'the discovery,' as Clifford said, 'of the missing link would only be required to show what animal was man's ancestor, an ape, as Darwin supposes, or with Vogt, some other animal.'

DR. DOGIEL has discovered that music has an influence on the circulation of the blood, generally causing the heart to beat more rapidly. *School Journal*. Dr. Richardson traces the effect of alcohol to a paralysis of the nerves, which restrains the action of the heart. Music, then, is literally intoxication. O! those wretched old teetotal drunkards, with their church organs and their ten-cent concerts! Talk about sprees!

KWONKI CHIN, a Chinaman, has compiled a dictionary of English idioms and slang terms. He has two appendices, lives of Jesus and Confucius.

\* \* \*  
 'DURANCE, no letters must you give  
 To any student resident,  
 Till scrutinized they all have been  
 By me, the College President.'  
 So spoke it was; and closer drawn  
 Are the too closely fitting fetters,  
 And grads must wait, no odds how late,  
 Until the porter brings the letters.

\* \* \*  
 ONE fool at a time in a house is quite enough, but be very careful that that one is not yourself.

\* \* \*  
 WHEN you pass a suburban residence and notice that the only part of it out of order is the front gate, you may be sure of one of two things—either the owner of the house owes money all round, or else he has a pretty daughter.

\* \* \*  
 LORD NAPIER, of Magdala, is to be offered a field-marshal's staff. Wouldn't an editor's staff do just as well? Because in that case we could supply him—cheap.

\* \* \*  
 A DAIRYMAN I know has sunk a new well, and after bragging a good deal about the difficulties he had overcome, looked around for the applause. He got it from an old gentleman in the corner, who quietly asked if he had got down on the chalk.

\* \* \*  
 THE evening had been convivial. 'And now, gentlemen,' said the chairman, 'I'll protose a post.'

\* \* \*  
 THE late William Shakespeare has observed, with his accustomed perspicuity, that 'All the world's a stage.' So it is. And if you would preserve the illusions of youth, never try to get behind the scenes, but accept the characters of the players as by themselves represented.

\* \* \*  
 A TISSUE-PAPER party was enjoyed by the many friends of Miss Eva Bogardus, at her home in Champaign, last evening.—*Illini*. If a 'tissue-paper party' gets its name like a 'calico ball,' what shall we say now for co-education?

\* \* \*  
 Who'll wisely reprove?  
 "I," says Queen's *Journal*,  
 "Because I'm so VERNAL,  
 "I'll mildly reprove."  
 —*Sunbeam*.

\* \* \*  
 It has a long time been a matter of wonderment to me what manner of man it could be Matthew Arnold described as an 'exponent of sweetness and light.' I've found the fellow at last. He keeps a general store in Yorkville, and his window displays, in close contiguity, a choice assortment of sugar-plums and tallow candles.

THERE is some talk at Oxford of the Agamemnon Company playing either the whole Orestean Trilogy or else the 'Alkestis' next term.

\* \* \*  
 JAMES WATERS lay in the hospital; his legs had been amputated. He had been racing home from school with young Martin, one of his schoolmates. While crossing the railroad the train ran over both of them, Martin being cut to pieces.

'Nurse,' said Waters, 'I want to see Tommy Page; he has got the pencils I raced him for. I touched the gate first, because they brought me here on it. If Martin had the pencils they would have been smashed with him on the railway.'

'Yes, my child; now, go to sleep,' said the nurse.  
 Those two sticks of slate pencil are now preserved carefully in memory of the young sportsman.

\* \* \*  
 THE Boston *Post* says: 'Mrs. Langtry and the other professional beauties of London have a rival in the shape of a beautiful youth named Oscar Wilde, a poet and an "aesthetic." His picture adorns all the shop windows, and is even taken in the aesthetic style, with a bunch of lilies in his hand. He must look as lovely as a yellow cat having a fit in a dish of stewed tomatoes.' Let us hope that the Jingo's love for the Turk is not bringing England back to eastern manners.

\* \* \*  
 MARIE ROSE has been photographed in one hundred and fifty different positions. The only person who can beat her for variety of attitudes is a boy told to sit still on a chair at a funeral.

\* \* \*  
 THEY had women doctors in Egypt over 3,000 years ago. They used to bend over their patients, crowing, 'Let me kiss him for his mummy.'

\* \* \*  
 TOO TRUE.  
 GENERAL ROBERTS, with five thousand men,  
 Went out to Natal, and—came back again!

\* \* \*  
 IGNORANT men should keep their mouths shut. You can't tell whether a locked cupboard is full or empty.

\* \* \*  
 IT made me groan to discover that a number of our readers had not the slightest idea as to who Immanuel Kant was.

\* \* \*  
 THE Communists of London celebrated the outbreak of the Commune the other day by a dinner. The price of the tickets was 4s. 6d. This reckless extravagance has, it is hoped, utterly destroyed the pecuniary resources of the Socialists for years and years to come.

\* \* \*  
 As the Cornell men 'row along feathering their oars so nicely,' they sing gaily:

'Our tailors, duns, and jolly friends  
 Had plucked us altogether,  
 But now of a truth it can be said  
 We are again in feather.'

I won't vouch for the strict accuracy of the above, but talk about being at a loss for an observation.

\* \* \*  
 TRY again; spin out something under this heading, viz: I wish *bon voyage* and a big triumph to the Cornell fellows. The consolatory impression is pretty general in England, that if Hanlan, Foss & Co. are not to be beaten, at any rate, when it comes to the question of a crew, it must be a case of Rule Britannia; when it is borne in mind, as the boat-rigger at Henley will prove this year that all the tips received from this side of the Herring Pond, as to swivel-rowlocks, length of slide and width of oar-blade, have not by any means been thoroughly adopted. This sort of blustering confidence is a very small improvement on priggishness.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.—A year or so ago the Harvard undergraduates produced upon the boards of a prominent Boston theatre a 'burlesque' which was artistically and financially a great success. A unique feature about the entertainment was that the female parts were taken by members of the sterner sex, and the illusion was said to be perfect. We in Toronto University have never had even the simpler parts of the drama or opera, the answer to aspiring souls being "there is no talent here." It would be worth the trouble even to these pessimists to see the Toronto Amateur Opera Company in their new venture. They having very successfully performed 'Pinafore' and 'Les Cloches de Corneville,' have taken hold of the 'Pirates of Penzance.' I had the pleasure of witnessing a recent rehearsal of the opera, and was exceed-

ingly gratified at the evidence of talent displayed even in the 'chorus,' which is the difficult part in all amateur circles. Now that so much latent genius has been brought to the surface by the University Glee Club, some of the holder spirits should take courage and try and think over this idea. A hint, etc.

In the examinations for 1880 in the Bombay University, four hundred and thirty were matriculated out of about one thousand four hundred candidates. This has been the usual proportions for several years. In the graduation examinations—B. A. degree—there were many failures, owing, it is said, to the severity of the papers set. Most of the defeated ones failed in English. In his 'Study of Sociology' Herbert Spencer points out how unfair it is to examine these poor natives in the most subtle idioms, and even slang of English. Yet this is done. He gives some examples of the questions asked (the book prescribed was 'Ivanhoe'): "What are 'a pair of cast-off galligaskins'?" Answer: "Two gallons of wine." Etc.

A religious paper advises college officers to compel students to sign a total abstinence pledge for four years at entrance. The faculty at Wellesley have decreed that the societies must be suppressed after this term.

The President of Wooster University, Wooster, Ohio, has posted the following notice: 'Hereafter no female student will be allowed to receive more than one visitor per week, and he must not stay later than nine o'clock.'

Last dying words of a student, 'Bury my Bohns.—*Echo*. They must all be dying at Rutgers' College, where an exchange says they prescribe 'Greek text-books of which no printed translation exists.'

Professor Pepper in his address at installation as Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, said: 'If, in the larger world outside, no force influences men so powerfully as that of *public opinion*, it should be the case in the lesser world of a university, that the sustained sentiment of class after class against mean, ungentlemanly, or outrageous actions, should render their repetition practically impossible;—not enforced declarations. It might be debated whether an ultra-evangelical lecturer in history could regard the recantation tortured out by the inquisition as binding.

#### MAUD.

O! hark, thro' the morning hours  
The May-breeze is floating abroad;  
O! see all the opening flowers  
Are seeking their queen—sweet Maud!

And the brightest and daintiest beams  
For thy brow spurn the silver-bow god,  
And joyfully render their gleams  
To the gold of thy tresses, Maud!

Let me join in the lay of the brook,  
The brook that is hymning thy laud,  
And to every sweet violet-nook  
Is purling thy praises, Maud!

Let me rest by the hazel-girt stream  
Till the song-birds are hushed, overawed  
By the twilight, and gone to dream  
Of their loves. I will dream of Maud!

A. S. S.

#### 'VARSITY MEN YOU KNOW.

##### III. THE LATE PROFESSOR FORNERI.

Undergraduates of the University who attended lectures prior to the year 1867 will recall pleasantly to mind a small, erect, and fresh-complexioned old gentleman, who, as the bell in the great Norman tower tolled the close of the college working day, emerged from the main entrance of the building and pursued his way with short, nervous steps towards the Yonge Street avenue, and thence to the easterly precincts of the city. The old gentleman was a familiar figure to the then residents of Toronto on his homeward route. He wore gold spectacles, and carried a walking stick with the easy confidence sometimes noticeable in military men. Every student greeted him with a kindly salutation; his courtesy to all whom he recognized was that of a well-bred foreigner, and, as he politely raised his hat to some passing lady acquaintance, he disclosed a high, intellectual-looking forehead sparsely

mantled with hair of snowy whiteness. There was something in the appearance and bearing of the venerable "professor of languages," as he was popularly called, which arrested attention and challenged remark. With the infirmities of age plainly upon him, his features still wore the ruddy health of youth; his keen, deeply set eyes had in them an almost piercing brightness; force and decision of character marked every lineament of his face. Those who knew him well felt these to be distinguishing qualities of the man at once discernible in the snatches which he gave them of his strange life history. There was a tinge of the romantic running through it all; he had been "a right gallant gentleman" in his time, and his career altogether was a very remarkable one.

The late James Forneri, LL.D., Professor of Modern Languages in University College, was of noble or, at least, of semi-noble birth. The founders of his family were Frenchmen; the family name was originally Desfournière, and one of his ancestors was, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, a lawyer of not a little repute at the Paris Bar. The principal ancestral records were confiscated by the Italian Government in the year 1821, in consequence of the late Professor being compromised in the political events of that year; but those which were preserved enable us to glean the main facts of an exceedingly interesting family history. They show a long line of scholarly and clever men, *litterateurs* and members of all the learned professions, divided both in their political and religious opinions—Roman Catholics before the Reformation, Huguenots afterwards, and Catholics again when, passing from France to Italy, they settled in the once imperial city of Rome a few years before the massacre of St. Bartholomew. Their change of creed, as well as of citizenship, does not seem to have been due altogether to conviction, the transfer of allegiance having been made to enable the then head of the house to take possession of a large Italian estate which a cousin of his, one of the twelve Prelôts or Judges of the *sacra rota Romana*, had bequeathed to him. From this time forward the name of the family underwent a series of changes, becoming in turn De'Forneri and De'Forneri until the year 1821, when the subject of this sketch, who was then, like most Italian young men, strongly imbued with republican ideas, dropped the ancient aristocratic De' and adopted the simpler name which he bore with pride ever afterwards.

Although his ancestry were all Roman *ab antiquo*, and although his immediate progenitors settled in the seven-hilled city, the late Professor was, by the accident of birth, a Piedmontese. His father, David Emanuel De'Forneri, who was a lawyer, and what was known as a collegiate school pleader, married Margaret Gorresio, the daughter and heiress of a wealthy physician living in the city of Ceva in Piedmont. This marriage brought him a large property, including a valuable estate at Racconigi, a city a few miles distant from Turin, the capital of Piedmont. The estate was called *Il Macagno*, and as it was, every thing considered, a delightful summer retreat, his parents were accustomed to spend there a great portion of the year. At *Il Macagno* James Forneri was born, as near as can be ascertained, in the latter part of the month of June, or early in July, in the year 1789, when the great French Revolution was fairly in the ascendant. The terrible influences and effects of the Revolution were by no means confined to France. They extended, with a lesser degree of virulence, to Italy, where they inflicted great and irreparable losses and severe privations upon many of the ruling families of the country. The De'Forneri did not escape, either in person or estate, from this whirlwind of passion and violence which swept Italian soil. David Emanuel De'Forneri and his father held influential positions in the service of the Government. The family was naturally identified with the *noblesse* royalists, and it paid the penalty which was mercilessly exacted from all others similarly situated. The Jacobin revolutionists had no sooner crossed the Alps than they swooped down, like rapacious vultures, upon the peaceful fields and smiling vineyards of Italy, carrying devastation and ruin wheresoever they went. James Forneri's father and grandfather were driven from their homes, and hunted like wild beasts through the country. His mother, who remained the sole protectress of her young family, was repeatedly compelled to pay heavy contributions to save her house from the spoiling hand of the plunderer or the touch of the incendiary, and occasionally even her children and herself from murder. Her husband and his father succumbed ere long to the hardships which they were forced to endure; both died of fatigue and exhaustion, and James Forneri was thus left fatherless in his helpless infancy, and his mother a widow, while still in her youth, with the care of five children, two sons and three daughters, James being the younger of the brothers. Under these trying circumstances Mrs. De'Forneri, whose near relatives belonged to the north of Italy, determined to give up her establishment in Rome. She settled for life in Piedmont, making her residence alternately at Turin and Racconigi, where she devoted herself with affectionate solicitude to the educational training of her children. We may well believe that their tender years of infancy were full of many anxieties for the young mother, and that she had a fair share of

the trials and misfortunes of the widowed head of a household. Not long before her departure from Rome, James, who was then a mere child, met with an accident which well might cost him his life. One day as an infantry regiment was marching past beneath the upper windows of the house, his nurse, attracted by the music of the regimental band, hurried to the front balcony and rested the child upon the balustrade. While in this position the little fellow slipped from her grasp and fell into the street below, a distance of over thirty feet. The regiment was instantly halted, and everybody supposed that he was killed. He had fallen, however, upon the shoulders of one of the officers of the regiment, who was walking alongside his company, and the force of the fall being thus broken, the child providentially escaped with a few bruises. Some four years afterwards he sustained a serious accident whilst being driven by the coachman in the narrow streets of Ceva; in trying to avoid a passing vehicle the driver ran the wheel of his own upon a doorstep and overturned the carriage. James Forneri, who was one of the occupants, had his arm dislocated and several bones broken, and it was only by the skilful attention of the surgeon of a French regiment, who happened to be billeted at his mother's house, that the young lad was preserved from a permanent physical deformity. But, as will be seen in the course of this narrative, these were not the only occasions upon which the 'protecting fairy' of credulous childhood charmed away imminent danger and saved his life. He was destined to pass unharmed through many perils, and to close a long and eventful career with the serene tranquillity of a peaceful end.

Mrs. De'Forneri's desire to educate her children was very happily promoted by her father's affluent circumstances. Dr. Gorresio, who had left no male issue surviving him and only two daughters, had at his death bequeathed to them a large property under certain conditions, which were now to take effect in favor of his youngest grandson. By his will he had directed that his estate should go to his elder daughter, and afterwards in succession to her sister, in case either had a son who should study for the church, take holy orders, and perform testamentary obligations of celebrating every morning a mass in the private family chapel, and affording hospitality for three nights to all pilgrims who might claim it on their way to visit the Holy Places. His will further provided that his property, which had an annual value of several hundred pounds, should ultimately pass to the convent of the *Orfanelli* at Mondovi in the event of his two daughters, or their offspring in a direct line, having no male children who would assume the sacred office of the priesthood. Testamentary bequests like these were not uncommon at the time. In the last century in England, as well as in Italy and other continental countries, it was, if not an article of faith, at least a hallowed and time-honored custom in families of respectability, and especially in those of noble descent in which there was more than one son, to bring up the second son either to the church or the army. Mrs. De'Forneri was a devout Catholic, and there is no reason to doubt that it was from no desire of retaining the family inheritance or from any other interested motive, but solely from a pious conscientiousness, quickened and directed by her spiritual advisers, that she had, from his earliest infancy, dedicated her youngest son to the priestly service of the Romish Church. So soon, therefore, as they were old enough to receive such instruction, Jesuit teachers were provided to prepare the elder son for the University of Turin, he being destined for the Bar, and the younger for the *Seminario Romano*, a college in Rome in which young men were trained for the church. In that seminary James Forneri remained until he had completed his third year in divinity, when his brother having died, he, with the consent of his mother and after a grave family consultation, gave up the study of theology for that of jurisprudence and canon law. The young student devoted himself with great diligence and success to his newly adopted profession, and in the course of time took his degree of LL.D at the University Della Sapienza in Rome. He had no thought, however, of remaining there. Whatever was the reason—he was wont to say jocularly that it was because he had 'cheated St. Peter'—he was not regarded in Rome with a favoring eye by those whose influence and good-will were indispensable to a young man commencing the practice of the legal profession. His mother, moreover, lived in the north of Italy; she stood in need of his filial comfort and protection, if not of his assistance, and her friends and relatives there were highly connected and influential. Under these circumstances he left Rome forever; and having completed his three years term of preparatory service as a law student in Turin, and passed with distinction the examinations prescribed by the *lex*, he was in the year 1809 admitted to the Bar of that city. For two or three years thereafter his life seems to have been that of the majority of advocates entering the legal profession. It was the watching and waiting period of professional existence when young barristers are popularly supposed to be briefless. Its monotony was, however, broken by one noteworthy adventure in which his life was again placed in jeopardy. In company with a small party of friends, all of whom were travelling in carriages, he was returning home one beautiful moonlight night in

September, 1810, from the festival of the Madonna at Viso, a small Piedmontese village upon the mountain near Mondovi, when the party were attacked by a band of brigands disguised and armed to the teeth. The first carriage, in which James Forneri was seated fast asleep, was fired into by the ruffians, and as he jumped from the vehicle into the road, he found the bridle of his horse in the grasp of the leader of the band. He at once raised the alarm, and his friends coming up, a determined resistance was made with such missiles as could be laid hold of, there being not a single firearm or weapon amongst the party. The robbers used their pistols freely, but no shot took effect, and they were finally put to flight and pursued as far as a forest about a quarter of a mile distant from the main road. The young advocate had outstripped his companions in the chase, and in seeking to rejoin them by a shorter route, he was mistaken for one of the assailants bent upon another attack, and barely escaped with his life.

J. KING.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## MITES AND BITES.

A LAW student, who sometimes contributes poetry to the 'Varsity, writes to know why a promissory note is like a blade of grass? He suggests that it is because it is matured by falling dew.

RED objects are always obtrusive; red coats, neckties, etc. Wonder if 'wine had been banished' earlier a well-known nose would have been less red, and 'hence accordingly' less obtrusive than it is.

'WHAT I dislike,' said a resident moralist, with his feet in the grate and his head lost in smoke, 'what I dislike about death is its permanence!'

AN extraordinary document has been discovered in the neighborhood of the Residence, in which these words have been deciphered: 'Miserable nincompoop! thrice-abominable representative of the rag-tag and bob-tail, when any member of the great unwashed—' The questions present themselves, 'Who is thus addressed?' and 'What avail declarations?'

If I wanted o'er the students at the Coll.

To exert a scrutinizing supervision;

I'd build a house, in preference to all,

On the corner of St. George Street and Division.

A SHOWER BATH has been put into the Gymnasium.

It is said that no one ever dies happy whose disease is below the diaphragm, or whose subscription to the 'Varsity is unpaid.

EXAMINATIONS in medicine on Wednesday last. Each student has a word, not a number to sign to his papers.

THE Fourth Year students in Natural Science have been forcing the season by finishing their eggs before Easter.

RESIDENT students sit on the roof of the corridor, in the sun, till some one empties a pitcher of water on them from an overlooking window, then they—

SOME twenty or thirty meds. have gone up to Cobourg University, and obtained M.B., as a provision in case they will be plucked here. Dean Buchanan of Philadelphia would have been of use after all.

HANDBILLS illuminated with a wood-cut of Francis Jones, setting forth his intention of overturning the Newtonian System of Astronomy, have been covering the college corridors since Tuesday last.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.—Mr. Kingsford's first act as President of the Literary and Scientific Society was to present it with that exquisitely prepared work, '*Art Treasures of America*.' The complete series will be worth thirty dollars. The ten numbers that have appeared are already in the curator's hands, where they may be inspected by members of the society who wish to do so. A serious practical difficulty presents itself in the exhibition of the books, for the pictures are too tempting for safety when exposed to the unguarded mercies of the ordinary undergraduate Goth, who carves sufficiently the ordinary periodical.

We heard at Brantford enough of the importance of music as a refining and cultivating influence. It may be. The savage hath his tom-tom, and is yet a savage. But the savage hath not an oil painting. A great musician dies, and who can bring his soul back to earth, or his soul's music? But the soul of a painter is fastened to his canvas forever. Who then shall estimate the value of art-influence which we lack?

Yet in these books of Mr. Kingsford's we have a beginning. The plates are prepared by Goupil by a photographic process which gives all but color, reproducing the drawing, of course, perfectly; the chiaro-

scuro, and the texture and feeling to some extent of the great works of great modern painters, mainly of the Paris and Dusseldorf schools. The letterpress is, as might be expected where the plates are expensive, cheap and commonplace, couched in the common cant of continental criticism.

**VARSITY MEN.** One Margoliouth is now the wonder of Oxford, having secured, in addition to the Scholarship at his College, the Hartford and Ireland University Scholarships, the Gaisford Latin Prose prize (and was 'proximi' for the Greek), the Pusey and Ellerton Hebrew Scholarship, the Syriac Prize, and he has now added the Boden Sanskrit Scholarship. Meanwhile he has secured a First-class in Moderations and Litteræ Humaniores. He is by philosophy a Schopenhauerian, and believes life not worth living. It is to be hoped that, with such a power over language, he will not cease to live before he has added something to the literature of the day.

**REV. R. ABRAHAM** was in town last week. He is minister at Burlington.

**THE Annual Meeting** of the Cricket Club will be held on Friday afternoon, the 29th inst., at five o'clock in the committee room of 'Moss Hall.' All those who intend playing Cricket this season are requested to attend. The question of continuing the present arrangement with the Toronto Cricket Club will come up. It is also intended to submit several changes in the constitution.

#### SCISSORINGS.

You may have been a passenger in an omnibus or a railway carriage at a time when some one picked a half-dollar off the cushions or a shilling from the straw and anxiously inquired for an owner. At such a time every man instinctively feels in his pockets. Every man feels like saying that he is the lucky party, but an inward voice somehow restrains him, and he remembers that it is wicked to tell lies. The money is invariably pocketed by the finder, and he is set down in the opinions of his fellow-passengers as contemptible and mean.

Now Barney, going home to Hammersmith yesterday, purposely dropped a florin on the floor, and at the proper moment he picked it up and observed:

'Who lost this florin?'

Everybody looked at him, and every mouth watered.

'Did anyone drop this florin?' continued Barney, as he held up the coin.

There was another embarrassing pause. Then a man reached out for it with the remark—

'I dropped it, sir. You are an honest man to return it.'

'Are you sure you dropped it?'

'I am. I am not a liar.'

'But—you see—you——' stammered Barney.

'You give me my money or I'll wring your neck!' interrupted the other, as he reached out for his victim.

Barney gave it up. He looked white and red and green, and he felt so bad over it that he got out at Earl's Court and walked home.

"It's no use coming to me," said the editor of an illustrated paper to a young man who lately applied for a berth as special artist, "unless you can undertake to hit off an accurate sketch of a man's features in the interval between his throwing himself out of a window and his reaching the ground."

SAYS Biggar to Foster, "If I were you,  
The Queen should create me, and quickly, too,  
The 'Earl of Buckshot,' if I were you."

SAYS Foster to Biggar, "If I were you,  
Many names might be changed, and, properly, too,  
Your own name, for instance, if——"

**NOTE BY THE EDITOR.**—It is enough to make us cry to think that we cannot complete this epigram. *Pink 'Un.*

**THERE** is no special style of engraving for engagement rings. A spider's web, with a fly in it, is a very pretty device.

**CRUICKSHANK** used to tell an amusing adventure he once had with a burglar. On returning home one night late, after lecturing at Exeter Hall on temperance, as he opened his front door he espied a man with a bundle under his arm making his way out at the back. He ran after him and quickly collared him. A policeman was called, who took the man into custody. Cruickshank accompanied them to the police station to give his evidence. On the way he read the man a lecture on the evils of drink. He asked the thief if it were not drink that had brought him thus low. The burglar supposed it was. Thereupon Cruickshank

halted under the friendly light of a lamp-post and exclaimed, "Look at me, friend. I have not tasted either wine or spirits for more than twenty years.' 'Havn't you, though?' answered the man; 'if I'd ha' known that I'd ha' jolly well knocked your bloomin' old 'ead orf!'

A SAILOR was tried recently for theft at Brest. The evidence was strong against him. The judges asked him if he had anything to say. "Ay," he replied, "I think it would be charitable were any good Christian to bring a bundle of hay and a pail of water for you asses who have been braying on the bench for the last hour." The judges instantly sentenced him to ten years' hard labor for his insult, and to two years' imprisonment for the petty larceny.

#### BLIGHT.

If lightning strikes a tree  
In its mad race,  
There will remain,  
Through hail and rain,  
A lasting trace.

Years shall fail to restore  
That tree to former splendor;  
Ne'er more the spring  
Green buds shall bring,  
And shoots so tender.

Even as a tree may withered be  
By lightning in a day;  
So a life may be blighted  
By love unrequited,  
And ruined for aye.

A. C. S. Y. P. B.

#### COMMUNICATION.

##### UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

SIR,—It must be acknowledged that university consolidation is the speediest means of forming what the intellectual life of Canada most needs, a cultured class. Instead of a feeling of repulsion, which now exists to some extent between the several universities, there would spring up a bond of unity between graduates of a provincial university, the result of friendly competition in a common examination hall, and the requirement of a common standard. The advantages of consolidation are so numerous and so palpable, that it should not be longer delayed. The Legislature cannot plead lack of time for its neglect. It might well for some years have spared the Province the expense and trouble of its latest giant progeny the Judicature Bill, the *magnum opus* of the recent session, to devote a little time to this important scheme. It is plain the Government must not be looked to to take the initiative. For the interests of higher education, it would not be well that it should do so. No one is so fatuous now as to look for anything from the Minister of Education. He could derive little aid from his colleagues—and the Legislature of the Province of Ontario is the last place one would go to hear an intelligent discussion on the subject of university consolidation. "*Dimidium facti, qui cepit, habet.*" The first step would be the most difficult. I would suggest a convention of representatives from all the universities of Ontario—two or three from each—sometime before the next meeting of the Legislature. At this meeting let all sectarian prejudices and local jealousies be merged in the interests of higher education, and let the importance of the question outweigh all minor considerations. At this convention the whole subject of the endowments of the various institutions, the government of the central university and the various colleges, etc., could be gone into, a report drafted, and a deputation appointed to lay it before the Government, and urge the necessity for action. The university property of privately-endowed institutions should not be an obstacle to consolidation. The denominational colleges would still exist as theological and literary training colleges, shorn of their present university powers, with a uniform curriculum and uniform examinations. How to bring about the convention? Let three or four of our leading educationalists, unconnected with any university, confer with the senates of all Ontario universities with the object of bringing about this convention during the summer or next autumn. Some such plan as this would assuredly meet with a hearty response. Two sectarian colleges have already proved that university consolidation is possible; and since it is possible, by all means let us have it.

M. A.



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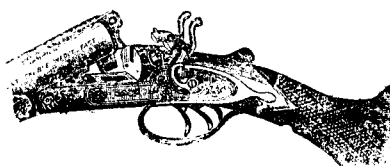
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