

# QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL.

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## Queen's College Journal,

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ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

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WE call the attention of all interested to the announcement of the new Female Medical College on the back of the present number. Having mentioned it in our last issue, we need do nothing more than refer to it and the authority for further reference therein stated.

IT is rather pleasing to notice that the energy of Principal Grant is gradually infusing itself through the large body of students generally, and that "deeds not words," a motto to which he proclaimed himself so attached at the graduates luncheon last May, has found its way to the hearts of so many of the young sons of Queen's. For several years past, word after word, sentence after sentence, paragraph after paragraph have been hurled at the rickety old barns which so beautifully decorated the main approaches to our classrooms, and which also served a useful purpose as cow sheds. But word, sentence and paragraph have been hurled without effect, and the sheds still

stood until the evening of the 31st of October when the Principal's motto of "deeds not words" came to the mind of a few daring youths, and on the morning of the 1st of September, the sheds where were they? Gone, and we are glad they are, and we think it would have been much more to the satisfaction of all parties had they several years ago been moved out of sight to the other end of the College field where they still might have served their useful purpose without being a continual eyesore. As it is we think they are much better in ruins than standing where they were and only wish they had been completely carried off.

LATER.—The above editorial was written soon after the news of the event reached our ears, and before we had an opportunity of fully seeing the damage. Although the ruin is not so great as we thought, we leave the above to show our opinion on the subject, and hope the authorities will see a good reason for removing to a safe distance the sheds that are left.

WITH trembling fingers we have taken up our pen to touch reverently that awe-inspiring and generally-to-be-feared tribunal the *Concursus Iniquitatis*. Yet, think not Freshie there is in us the slightest desire that our fingers should not tremble, or that our hand should be the hand of the despoiler. Far from us be the thought. We rather desire to make a suggestion, which, in our opinion, would greatly increase its usefulness and efficiency. The suggestion is that its laws be codified and its officers appointed for the session, not for each set-

ting of the Court. This, of course, must be left for the Senior year to attend to, and we hope they will gravely take it under their august consideration.

WE are glad to see that the wearing of the full academic costume is being advocated among the students and encouraged by the Professors. The wearing of the gown has always been considered necessary, but the claims of the cap have been entirely overlooked, owing, we presume, to the rigor of the weather during part of the session. The consequence of this has been that when the students appear with their gowns they have a kind of half-finished appearance, which the present movement in favor of the wearing of the cap will abolish. We hope all the students will soon be of one mind on the subject, and that (except of course at times when furs are necessary) in future no gown will be seen unless accompanied by the orthodox "mortar board."

IN about a month the annual meeting of the Alma Mater Society will be held, and as it is at that meeting usually that any necessary changes in the Constitution are made, we wish to mention a change which many seem to think desirable that it may be thought over by those most interested.

At present the regular meetings held on the Saturday evenings throughout the session are all of the same nature, the first part of the evening being devoted to business, and the remainder to a debate on some chosen subject or the reading of an essay. Now often this remainder resembles in too many respects a mathematical point, owing to the fulness with which many of the questions are discussed. This free discussion we are by no means desirous of limiting, but think that the change we propose would, while not doing this, tend to the ignoring of many very unimportant subjects now so often

brought up. It is this: that one evening in the month be devoted entirely to business, and if this be not sufficient that a special meeting be called therefor; that another be devoted to the reading and criticism of an essay; and that the other two or three as the case may be, be given over wholly to debating. This is merely in general what one desirous of moving it would have to make particular before it would be in a form to be voted on, but we think that such a change would greatly further the objects the Society has in view.

CHIEF Justice Moss, at a recent meeting of Toronto University Convocation, referred to University College as being non-sectarian and as not teaching the dogmas of any form of christian belief, as if in this it differed from those colleges belonging to any special denomination of christianity. We had thought before this that the impression that "the dogmas of any form of christian belief" were of necessity taught in what are called denominational colleges, only lingered in the minds of those who through ignorance or apathy have ceased to inform themselves concerning the progress of events, and we don't think that it has previously been considered necessary to mention in our columns the non-sectarianism of the course at Queen's in Medicine and Arts. In these two departments may be found adherents of all denominations, Protestant and Catholic, and throughout the course the student does not hear one word as to christian dogmas that might not be uttered in University College itself. To be sure it is one of the Professors in the Divinity Hall in connection with Queen's who is the Principal of the University, but the influence exerted by him is only that which might be expected from an eminent christian minister in such a position. That Presbyterianism gave birth and nourishment to Queen's University, as

Methodism did to Victoria University is a fact which will never be denied by either of these institutions, but that they of necessity teach the peculiar dogmas of their respective denominations in courses outside of their Theological schools is something which no one who has any knowledge of their curriculum or government would venture to affirm.

AT the Y. M. C. A. Convention, which closed its session here last week, it was proposed to form an Association among the students in Arts, Medicine and Divinity. No action at the time was taken in the matter, the reason given being that it would be well to wait until the arrival of the Divinity students. Now, while not in any way wishing to throw cold water on any such laudable object, we think that it would be well to carefully consider whether or not it would be better for the students to form a separate association instead of strengthening the local Association by adding to it their members. Could not more real good be done by joining this local Association than by forming a separate one. The present comfortable rooms of the Y.M.C.A. would form a very pleasant down-town resort for any of the students who would desire to take advantage of them, and on the other hand an accession of strength in the shape of a large number of students, would greatly help the Association in its endeavour to increase its resources and influence. We make these remarks rather as suggestions than arguments, and will be glad to get the general opinion on the subject. Before closing we might also say, that we think that the proposal to wait until the Divinity students come back before deciding was hardly the correct one. Students are only influenced by fellow students, and as an ordinary thing, a Divinity student has but slight influence over one in Medicine, or one in Medicine over one in Arts. Even Divinity and Arts students, situated as they

are, with classes in the same building, have very little influence over one another. And even if the Divinity students join such an Association in a body, it would have very little influence on the action of the other students. The others would say that such a thing was expected, and would calmly pursue the even tenor of their way and allow the Divinities to "run" the thing themselves. The Arts and Medical students must do active work if such an Association is ever to prosper or do a general, good work.

THURSDAY was Thanksgiving Day, and as we saw some whose countenances were anything but joyful, we feel it our bounding duty to mention here a few things for which they ought to be thankful, hoping that as a result of our effort many may be induced to enter upon future days set apart for general thanksgiving in a proper frame of mind. As to people in general they have a thousand and one things to be thankful for which we will not mention, except the one thousand and first—that is, the public should ever be grateful for such a high-toned journal as ours. But we shall descend—arise, we mean—to students in particular. "And what have I to be thankful for?" says some cheeky Soph. Throw away your grumbling and put on your considering cap, and then we'll talk to you. Why, firstly, you should have gone around last Thursday humming, whistling, or shouting the doxology till your very lungs ached, just because it was Thanksgiving Day, and therefore, a holiday. This, of course, cannot apply to a Freshman, because we know how nauseous holidays are to his delicate taste. Yet they should be thankful that they ever got inside college now that the standard is so high. In fact all students have much to be grateful for in the bare fact that they are students and not of the common race of mankind, although it would be hard to tell some of

them but for their rags; and that is the main reason why the JOURNAL so strenuously endeavours to enforce the wearing by all students of a gown and cap, whose origin is so beautifully traced in another column. Everybody connected with the College, from the Chancellor down to the smallest Freshie—smallest in intellect, of course—should be devoutly thankful for the success of the Endowment scheme through the past twelve months, and that the new buildings are now almost roofed in. Apropos of roofs, many a daring youth may be thankful if he hasn't a roof put on him for taking the roof off the—the—what-you-call-'em—appendages to the College. And ye divines, a word of warning: we all know your beaming countenances depict hearts of gratitude within, let your thankfulness be not of the Phari-saical kind of which we read in the Bible, we need not reiterate the passage even if we could, of course you know it. And we editors, what have we to be thankful for—we had not even Thanksgiving Day to ourselves; no, there is no rest for the—the—righteous, our reward is yet to come. So boys pluck up courage and at least thank your stars if you do not get plucked.

ALL Graduates and Alumni generally are requested to read and make a note of the following. It is part of the business of such a journal as this to collect news of those old students who have long ago left the halls of Queen's to engage in the general business of life, and thus publish a record of their sayings and doings for the benefit of old class-mates who, perhaps, have not seen their faces since the memorable day when, with united voices, they repeated the *sponsio academica*. This we have always striven to do, remembering the announcement in our prospectus that it would always be a prominent object with us to rivet, if possible, more closely the bonds of union between the

Alumni and their Alma Mater. In spite of this fact, however, our "Personal" items are often very few in number, and the very large majority even of these concern only the younger graduates. Now, the reason for this is simply because we are not omniscient. This announcement may surprise some of our readers, but the fact still remains, and we must sadly but firmly repeat we are not omniscient. Neither are we ubiquitous. We absolutely cannot know everything, or be everywhere at once. We, therefore, request each and every old graduate or alumnus, when anything happens which he would consider a special event in his history, to drop us a line informing us of the fact, and he will be surprised to find how many old class-mates still retain a strong desire to know somewhat of his welfare. Besides, just think how our subscription list would be increased amongst the ladies were we able to publish occasionally a column headed "Births and Marriages." Care is taken to send such notices to the papers that circulate in the immediate neighborhood. Why not send them to one that circulates among so many of one's oldest and best friends? We know the innate modesty that characterizes the true son of Queen's, and makes him desirous of sending little information concerning himself; but if his sense of justice to us and his fellow graduates cannot overcome this, this much he can do, he can send us any news he may hear concerning other alumni, and perhaps others will do the same for him.

BELIEVING as we do that our columns should be wholly given up to original writing of the students, or news and suggestions with reference to our own Colleges and University in particular, or the College World in general, we rarely give any place in our paper to what is generally called "selected" matter. In this number, how-

ever, we have stepped aside from our usual course to give our readers the benefit of the remarks of a writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September on "English as a College study." Our reason for so doing will be understood by all conversant with the internal economy of Queen's, or for that matter of almost every other college, for, as the writer suggests, nearly all are deplorably deficient in that branch of study. That sufficient attention can be given to this study by a Professor of English Literature and Rhetoric, who is also Professor of History and of Modern Languages, is something that no one at all acquainted with the importance of the study would for a moment dare to maintain, especially when that Professor has also classes to attend to in another College.

As far as essay writing is concerned, it is only in the classes of Metaphysics and Ethics that the student in Queen's receives any regular training in composition. And indeed in these classes we doubt if such training would be given had not the necessity for it been forcibly impressed by repeated "awful examples" on the mind of the Professor. In fact it was partially the recognition of this want that led over six years ago to the establishment of the QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL. But it is time that a greater effort was made in this direction than ever has been made. Even our schools are lacking in this respect, and no one at all acquainted with the papers handed in at the matriculation examinations at our Colleges, would dream of asserting that students know English when they enter College. Let this fact be borne in mind when the "Senatus" are apportioning the comparative value of the classes, and let them gravely consider whether in this day and generation, such a class as that of History should be optional in a Canadian University. And if it be found—as we think it will be when sufficient thought is given to the subject—

that one Professor is unable to give that attention to every branch which a thorough instruction in English requires, we hope in the establishment of those new Professorships of which Dame Rumor speaks, the claims of our native language will not be forgotten.

A CHANGE in the arrangement of the Medical Examinations before the University is greatly needed. The Ontario Medical Council, after trying yearly examinations, have had to return to the old Primary and Final, and their Calendar is now in all probability permanently settled, so that a change made by the University would not have to be recalled in a year or two. In order that the student preparing for the two examinations may work to the greatest advantage the University Primary should be made optional at the end of the second or the third year. As now arranged the student must prepare his Primary work for the Council at the end of the second year, and then pass on the same work before the University the following session. This certainly tends to greater efficiency in those branches, but it is acquired at the expense of the Final work which has now to be systematically crammed in one year—the fourth. The first course of Finals is now the merest farce, a sheer loss of time indeed, for attendance is given simply for the sake of obtaining the ticket; the student busily engaged in preparing for his first examination is not able to pay attention to these lectures outside of the class-room, and so derives scarcely any benefit from them.

If the change we advocate was adopted the first two years would be devoted entirely to Primary, the last two entirely to Final studies. No time would then be lost in routine attendance on lectures, while ample opportunity would be given for *working in*

the Hospital, and not as now, only for walking through it. There can be no doubt that a third year Primary induces first year negligence, while on the contrary the present system of repetition for the sake of our two masters leads to the old result of clinging to the one and neglecting, if not despising, the other. This change, to be effectual, should be combined with compulsory attendance during four sessions—an enactment no longer difficult, as for the future it will be required by the Council.

### CONTRIBUTED.

#### POST-GRADUATE STUDIES.

THE best students lament at the end of each Session that while any one of the subjects to which they have been introduced by the lectures would occupy the thoughts of a lifetime, they have been able to give to it only a divided attention for six or twelve months. Obligated to take up new subjects, they comfort themselves with the resolution of returning to one or other of their old loves in after years, and of giving to it then some of their more matured intellectual strength. Such good resolutions bear about the same proportion of fruit that good resolutions on other subjects usually bear, and after a time they are allowed to drop down to the place that is proverbially their own. Perhaps as regards the discontinuance of systematic study, one of the reasons may be, that Universities have not earnestly sought to keep their sons in connection with their highest work by presenting Post-Graduate courses to them, that would lead—if not to another and higher degree—at least to the comprehensive and thorough knowledge of some one subject. In Queen's the Degrees of B.Sc. and B.D.—though taken in the past as a rule by students during their ordinary course—were intended to be prizes rather for Post-Graduate studies; and we call the attention of former alumni to this little understood fact, with the hope that it may lead them to continue the scientific method of reading which they acquired in their college days. In addition to this link of connection that students of former days may keep up with their Alma Mater, and which students from other universities are entitled to according to their standing, there is a special advantage that graduates residing in Kingston might avail themselves of, and which, we are rather astonished to know, they have seldom or never sought. There must be alumni in Kingston who, though unwilling to enter upon the extensive range of reading that either of the above-named degrees presuppose, are or ought to be equally unwilling to drop academic studies altogether and permit what they have learned to become a speedy prey "to sad forgetfulness." Why should not men of this class

read in one or other of the honor classes that are held in connection with every department of study in Queen's? The Professors would of course welcome them, for it would be much more pleasant to read with half a dozen honour men than with one or two. Usually too, such honour classes are held only once or twice a week, and there are graduates who could easily spare the required time from their professional or other duties in order to prosecute their studies in the special direction to which their own tastes incline. It may be thought that the honour classes are only for the regular students. That is quite a mistake, for every class—ordinary or extraordinary—in Queen's College is open to any one who chooses to register, and every encouragement is now given to men to prosecute special subjects of study. Some may think that attendance would involve a submission to examinations at the close of the Session, but there is no such necessity in the case of ordinary or honour classes. To graduates in the country we would then strongly recommend the post-graduate courses of study that the University has instituted, for the adoption of either course would give a guidance and point to their reading which they would find invaluable. And to graduates and others resident in Kingston we would suggest that the neglect by them of the honour classes must surely have arisen from a misapprehension of their object.

#### CAP AND GOWN.

SOME wise writer has remarked, that if you know nothing about a subject, but desire to be better informed, write an essay on it. How the information would come I believe he does not say, but leaves it in doubt, whether it would be from your own researches previous to writing or from the remarks and criticisms of your friends subsequently thereto. The former mode must have been in my mind when a few days ago I was asked to contribute to the columns of the JOURNAL, an article on the origin and meaning of the ordinary Academic Costume. Though accustomed to the feel thereof on brow and shoulders, my ideas about them were of the vaguest kind, and when the subject was suggested the above remark came to my mind and with the natural craving of an inquirer after knowledge I at once accepted the task and proceeded in search of my quest. My first attempts took the form of judicious questionings of some of my better informed friends, not of course in such a way as to make them think I was ignorant of the subject, but still sufficiently pointed to give them full opportunity to relieve their minds of any knowledge thereof which they might possess. Rather to my surprise I found that without any exception as far as that subject was concerned, there was a splendid analogy existing between their minds and Aristotle now rather notorious waxen tablets before they had in any way been used. Thus baffled in my first attempt, I betook myself to that glorious institution the Encyclopædia, two of them in fact, but was rather taken aback when I found that though they said a good deal on just what academic costume was

and by whom it was worn, they were absolutely dumb on the points for which I was searching.

I must admit I was now at a loss. Vainly I stood before shelves weighed down with books which seemed to deal with every other imaginable subject. Books concerning caps and gowns I could get in profusion, but then they were not the right kind of caps, nor were they the kind of gowns I wanted, however desirable might be the ownership of their owners. Do not, however, think I was in despair. If I was one of those in whose encyclopædias there was no such word as cap or gown, was I not also one of those in whose lexicon there was no such word as "fale?" Besides in spite of the very ingenious and reasonable arguments adduced by our mutual and popular friend Mr. Locke, it did seem opposed to the natural order of things that one who had passed his Freshman year, and the gown on whose shoulders had long since lost the comeliness and entirety in which once it had delighted, should not intuitively and innately know something of that costume which his intellectual countenance and thoughtful gait proclaimed him born to wear. When this idea struck me, it seemed from its brilliancy to be the correct one, and the more I pondered on it, the more the conviction of its truthfulness took possession of my mind. Still I must confess to some perplexity until another brilliant idea struck me that perhaps the most satisfactory mode of proceeding would be to adopt the scientific method of experiment. No sooner thought of than done, and in the next few hours I succeeded in evolving a revelation of its origin, an outline of which I give below. I only give an outline because, in the first place, the age in which we live is one satisfied only with superficial knowledge, and if deeper is announced it is unread (though if any of my readers wish to hear any more on the subject, they can readily obtain it by writing to me, care of the Managing Editor of this JOURNAL,) and secondly, when I thought it over in my mind I came to the conclusion that perhaps after all it would be better to let the public into the secret of how I obtained my knowledge. I do it of course at a sacrifice, and my conduct must ever appear as exceedingly disinterested especially in comparison with the seers and magicians of ancient Egypt, who were willing only to let the vulgar eye gaze on some of their smallest results, while the means by which these and greater results were arrived at, were kept a profound secret. But to proceed. Knowing as we all do the exceeding comfort and convenience of a skull cap, especially to the student, we do not wonder that all ancient scholars wore such a cap, in truth the fact is impressed on our minds from earliest youth by the numerous pictures of these ancient demigods of knowledge. This only need be said to convince every one of the naturalness of that department of the College cap. There are, however, two other important parts which are really the most conspicuous, viz.: the mortarboard and the tassell. Now to the uninitiated and thoughtless these seem entirely superfluous. How strange that such ignorance should prevail is the first thought that strikes one on

really commencing to consider their true origin and meaning. There was one thing about these ancient scholars that must be borne in mind by the modern student in order to fully appreciate what we are going to say, viz.:— These ancient scholars used very often to use their brains. Now I have not seen many examples of this kind, but we are told by masters in physiological science that excessive use of the brain is very prone to cause a rush of blood to aid that overtasked organ. When therefore our forefathers in knowledge used to leave the seclusion and coolness of their cloisters and venture out under the sun of Southern Europe (for we speak of a time when the northern nations were still barbarian) their already heated brains would be so tried by the warm temperature that they would become rather eccentric in some of their public actions, thereby giving rise to the fiction that learning might make a man mad. To shield them from both the heat and the imputation, some brilliant genius invented that picturesque species of parasol now known among the vulgar as the mortarboard, which of course had to shield the entire head, skull cap and all, and therefore was placed on top of the whole instead of forming a species of peak. I hope this explanation will entirely dissipate the absurd belief which I am sorry to say is so general, that the mortarboard is a relic of barbarism, for nothing but the refinement of civilization could ever have invented such a curious tool, as it must be remembered that, while it acted as a shade, it also effected a purpose, in pressing the skull cap firmly on the head when it would, if unaided, be liable to fly off on occasions when the absorption of knowledge was so great as to cause the brain to expand. Nothing more need be said on this subject, as I think I have said sufficient to prove the usefulness and propriety of this second department of the College Cap. And now we turn to the third which I think I can prove to be at present merely symbolic. If the reader will carefully examine a College Cap, he will find that in the centre of the above mentioned mortar-board is a hollow place now usually covered over with a film of cloth, and to this is attached that of which we are now about to speak, the tassell. No one who has ever worn a skull cap will deny that it must always be an exact fit, neither too large nor too small; and I may say that those who can speak with authority, say that those who devote their lives to the pursuit of knowledge oft-times find no opportunity to attend to many things which in these degenerate days are considered necessary. These two facts being stated; that those who could not find time to keep the hair of their head clipped should sometimes be troubled as to the exact fit of their skull caps, will be readily believed, and it will be understood, how the idea came, to open the tops of their caps and let the superabundant and ever increasing hair run through, and thus instead of allowing it to fill up the limited space in the interior of the cap, but running it through in the manner mentioned, it really made the cap sit more securely on their heads. And beyond all doubt this did greatly resemble the modern tassell, for ancient

men of learning proved conclusively that a fertile brain produced a large capillary growth, a statement which must be immediately accepted by all when we draw attention to the wigs so common to our old country fathers, among their lawyers, judges and clergymen, and which were worn to give them at least some resemblance to their more learned progenitors. Like these wigs, the modern tassell is only a sham, a show, a delusion, for no longer is the modern wearer capable of producing such a prodigious crop. Still loath to leave behind him one emblem of departed greatness, the ancient tuft of hair is in this way retained. So be it. It is perhaps just as well to do so, for now that we have been able to explain its origin, some modern intellectual Samson may arise and once more restore the old custom. So much for the Cap, and as I think that enough matter for thought has already been given the reader, I will leave the gown to a more convenient season.

X. Y. Z.

### SELECTED.

#### ENGLISH AS A COLLEGE STUDY.

THE head of a great university has lately ventured publicly to assert that only one thing is essential to culture, and that one thing is a thorough and elegant mastery of the mother tongue. If we mark well the exact sense of the word essential, and remembering to insist that other knowledge is important and all knowledge desirable, the truth of the statement may be conceded. The Greeks, the most polished people of antiquity, studied no literature beside their own, and learned no alien tongue for any literary purpose. The French, the most polished people of the present, and the only modern people whose literature is read by all others, possess to a remarkable degree the same self-sufficing characteristic. These two notable facts in the history of civilization support President Eliot in his unexpected and audacious confession. We believe that he is right, whether he speaks of the culture of a nation or of that of an individual. Nor is the knowledge which he praises merely a grace; it is a means toward soundness of judgment; it is a help to pure reason. Obviously, the man who always chooses words with precision and arranges them with lucidity will argue more accurately than the man who expresses himself vaguely and blindly. "Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man," said Bacon. Yes, if the writing itself is exact, but not so certainly otherwise.

Now, if this knowledge of English is thus essential, why not teach it? Is it a prominent branch of education in our universities? Not at all; not in Harvard and Yale, I am sure; probably in no other. It is a humble attendant on other studies, coming almost as a supernumerary. There are professorships of rhetoric and of English literature, but they are held in light esteem, I believe, by the other chairs of the faculty, and they are allowed to demand but little of a student's time. Their courses are made so easy that the idle seek them as "optionals." Only think of their being classed as optionals, when their prop result

is an essential! Oh, but the students are supposed to know English when they enter college. Are they? Ask the disgusted professor of rhetoric. He will tell you that in nine tenths of the exercises submitted to him spelling and grammar and construction are all at fault. And to correct this disgraceful ignorance there are six or eight "compositions" a year. There should be several times as many. In learning to write well there is but one secret of success, and that is frequent, laborious practice, coupled with assiduous correction. I venture to assert that the journeymen printers of our land write more fluently and grammatically, on the average, than the seniors in our universities. Why? Not through superiority of intellect, certainly; not because they know Greek and Latin and mental philosophy; solely because the handling of English is their daily work.

Obviously there must be more writing than there is in our schools and Colleges, or we shall continue to lack President Eliot's essential to culture. Other studies must cede some ground to this one; and to that end there must be fewer enforced courses. Every one who knows the college youth knows that he is harassed with many text-books, and that he ends his four years with but a smattering of various branches of knowledge, having learned no one thing thoroughly. He must have time for his compositions, or he cannot do them well. Nor should he be called on for much original thought—a frequent error of the professor of rhetoric. No profound or unusual subjects; only such as the student can write about readily; only topics within easy reach for one of his age and information: translations; sketches of personal adventure; renderings, in one's own words, from well-known authors; epitomes of professional lectures, or of text-books, even; replies to the effusions of brother students—such themes as these should be conceded. The object is to bring about much writing, much handling of the mother tongue, much of that practice which makes perfect. The professor of rhetoric should remember that other professors reveal metaphysics, the lessons of history, and the secrets of political economy, and that his business is strictly and exclusively to teach a fluent, correct, and graceful use of English.

But if all this is done, other studies will be neglected. No doubt of it, and, of course it is a pity; but still no doubt we must make a choice. Either a poor instruction in English and a smattering of many things, or a fairly good instruction in English and a smattering of fewer things—that is our dilemma. But is it worth while to make a nation of good writers? It has certainly been worth while to have Greeks and Frenchmen; the world has judged that they deserved a great deal of attention. "Ah, my Athenian friends, see what I am doing to win your praise!" said Alexander as he plunged into the Granicus.—*Atlantic Monthly for September.*

NEXT in point of meanness to doing a man an injury is to do him a favor and every now and then remind him of it.



**SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.**

**T**HROUGH recent investigations of Pringsheim considerable new light has been thrown upon the functions of chlorophyll, and new views have been obtained of certain things in plant physiology. He operated by bringing a condensed ray of sun-light, deprived of its heating power where necessary, to bear upon the chlorophyll grains in a leaf-cell. The effects produced were, first a complete destruction of the green coloring matter; secondly the gradual death of the cell as evidenced by the cessation of cyclosis or cell circulation; and lastly the complete destruction of the cell contents, leaving the dead cell wall behind.

According to Pringsheim these results are due to the action of the rays situated towards the actinic extremity of the spectrum, being readily brought about by blue light, but not taking place, even after some time, under the influence of red light.

He moreover shows that the action is a true combustion since it goes on only when the cells are surrounded by an atmosphere containing oxygen.

From this it would appear that under a sufficiently intense sunlight plants would first lose their green color and then die, the chlorophyll and protoplasmic matter being actually burnt up.

It would consequently seem reasonable to suppose that even under a moderate degree of sunlight, such as we experience upon any sunny day, a certain but limited amount of combustion goes on in the plant cell. If this be so, then we have an operation in plant life precisely similar to the function of respiration in animals.

But this investigation has further shown that while the chlorophyll remains, the protoplasmic mass is unaffected by light, but that the colorless granules in the protoplasm gradually disappear. Hence he looks upon the chlorophyll as a regular of the process of respiration.

Under this view of the functions of chlorophyll it is easy to understand the nature of etiolated plants; for growing in localities furnished with an insufficient amount of light the process of respiration goes on so slowly that no regular is needed.

D.

**COLLEGE WORLD.**

**J**OSH BILLINGS, *alias* Henry W. Shaw, graduated with the class of '37 at Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y.

HARVARD and Princeton Colleges will give the degree of M.A., only to those who take a special post-graduate course.

MISS BAKER, a young lady only 16 years of age, has been appointed a tutor in Greek in Simpson College, Indianola. She reads and writes Greek fluently, and at fourteen had made a complete lexicon of one of Sophocles' tragedies.

The chair for instruction in the Chinese language which was lately established at Harvard is for the benefit of those who wish to enter into the service of the Chinese Government. Some of the English speaking people have found employment in the custom's service of China, and the Government finding them so efficient are asking for more. The form of the language to be taught is the official dialect. It will be no joke to obtain the mastery of the tongue. One gentleman says a faithful student may get a fair hold on the language in three years' time, another says four and a half hours a day for 18 mos. will secure a fair mastery of it. It is stated that there are 145 modulations of tone and 4,000 vocables in the Pekin dialect, and that 20,000 com-

bination characters are said to be "sufficient for the use of beginners." The name of the Professor is Ko-kun-hua, which the boys have already shortened to Prof. Ko. He has with him a wife, five children and two servants who all wear the Chinese dress, and have not yet been seduced from their national food by the charms of pumpkin pie and baked beans.

THE number of students in American Colleges in 1856 was 8,438, now about 30,000 are in attendance.

AT Amherst, the Juniors recite in German at 6:30 a.m.

DARTMOUTH has had a gift of \$10,000 to found a chair of Anglo-Saxon.

THE faculty of Oberlin College has made half an hour's gymnasium exercise compulsory upon the students for four days in the week.

IT is said that in the Cornell Library of 40,000 volumes, there is not a single work of fiction.

COLUMBIA boasts a Cricket Club.

A WRITER in the *White and Blue* asks for a chair of Civil Polity for Toronto University.

HARVARD was victorious over the Britannia team of Montreal in a foot ball match on Oct. 25.

THE University at Notre Dame, Indiana, which was burned last April has been rebuilt and is now occupied.

WILLIAM and Mary College is soon to close from lack of support. It is the second oldest college in the country, holding its first commencement in 1700.

THE campus at Cornell University is illuminated every night with electric lights at the expense of a cent an hour. —*Acta*.

A PRACTICAL course of instruction in architecture has been arranged in the Yale school of Fine Arts.

ETON College, England, has established a factory, in which various mechanical appliances are to be erected, so that the boys may be taught the practical use of the tools.

IT is stated that one of the head waiters at one of the hotels in the White Mountains, last summer, was a Harvard graduate of the class of 1876. While superintending the dining-room he prepared for the ministry.

GEO. I. SENEY, President of the Metropolitan Bank, N.Y., has given \$50,000 to Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn.

HARVARD was founded in 1638—the oldest college in America.

COLLEGE papers are published by 200 colleges in this country.

**PERSONAL.**

**J**OSEPH WHITE, B.A., '77, is now to be found at Trinity College, Toronto, where he is preparing to enter the ministry of the Church of England. We notice that the Trinitarians have already found out Joe's strong point for we see his name among the members of their foot ball team.

WE tender (though he did neglect to send us a notice) our heartiest and united congratulations to John Pringle, B.A., '75, who on the 23rd of September last, by the Rev. Dr. Cook, assisted by the Rev. Leroy Hooker, was united by Hymen's chains to Miss Bignell, of Quebec. Irresistible associations compel us to inform Mrs. Pringle that if her husband prove as great a success in the capacity he has just assumed as he did as a footballer, she will never repent her act.

ROBERT GOW, class of '83, has the heartfelt sympathy of us all in his present affliction. He had only been here a few days, in fact the Matriculation examinations were barely over, when he was recalled home to Wallacetown by the news of the severe illness of his father, an illness which resulted fatally before he succeeded in reaching home. We hope, however, his present sorrow, great as it is, will not prevent his once more joining our ranks.

HUGH CAMERON, B.A., '76, has received a call to Glen-coe. We tender him our congratulations and best wishes for his success. We hear that there is a vacant manse in connection with the church.

J. N. TAFF, who spent two years of his course at Queen's, has taken the degrees of B.A., Ph.D., at Syracuse University.

REV. J. J. CAMERON, M.A., an alumnus in Theology, has removed from Shakespeare to take charge of the United Congregations of Pickering.

J. B. McLAREN, MA., '78, has, we are informed, commenced to settle down. Being well acquainted with the gentleman in question, we beg to tell the informant that he must substantiate his charge with stronger proofs than he has yet advanced before we will believe it.

W. H. HENDERSON and the Cleaver Bros., of last year's class in Medicine, are succeeding well in the Old Country Hospitals. They passed a very creditable Primary examination before the Royal College of Surgeons in September last.

G. C. WARD, M.D., and R. A. Leonard, M.D., both of '79, have erected their "shingles" in the same town. We have no doubt they will cure Napanee's disorders. May it prove remunerative.

T. R. HOSSIE, M.D., '79, has crossed the border. He left no unpaid debts so we wish him success in Gouverneur, N.Y.

A. P. KNIGHT, M.A., was elected President of the City Teachers' Association which held its profitable meetings here last week. D. A. Givens, B.A., '78, at one of their sittings gave an interesting paper on "English Grammar" which was highly commended.

J. R. VAN ALLEN, M.D., '71, is at present flourishing in Kansas City, where he removed during the past summer.

GEO. NEWLANDS, M.D., '79, is engaged in the practice of his profession at St. Cloud, Minn.

C. H. LAVELL, M.D., '73, is experimenting successfully on the eyes and ears of the afflicted citizens of St. Paul, Minn.

The many friends of W. A. Lafferty, M.D., '79, will be sorry to hear that for several months past he has been prostrated by a disease which it is feared will terminate fatally. Hoping almost against hope, he was removed to New York and placed under the care of eminent physicians there, but we believe with little benefit. However, while there's life there's hope.

OUR old friend, R. W. B. Smith, M.D., who, though not graduating here, took the four years' course in the Royal, is engaged in a comfortable practice at St. Thomas.

JOHN H. MORDEN, M.D., '59, late of Brockville, takes one more name off our list of old living graduates. His old friends and classmates will be sorry to hear that he passed from this life during the past summer.

PRINCIPAL GRANT opened a church on Sunday last at Ashton for Rev. John MacAlister, '65, a graduate who has not forgotten his Alma Mater.

## DE NOBIS NOBILIBUS.

### QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

LEGAL NOTES.—Concursus Iniquitatis.

IN RE B——. The prisoner was charged with using insulting language to his seniors: conducting himself in a haughty and pompous manner towards the members of his own class, arraying himself in gaudy and expensive clothing, and in many other ways overstepping the humble position, which he, as a Freshman, should occupy. The evidence in all counts was very conclusive, and the jury after a short absence brought in a verdict of "guilty" in every offence. The offences were very heinous, but on account of the extreme youth of the prisoner, His Lordship after a severe admonition, during which the prisoner could with difficulty refrain from weeping, only inflicted a very small penalty.

IN RE D——. Prisoner was charged with feloniously abstracting a senior's cane, but it being proved that he was a kleptomaniac, he was let off easily.

The Court then adjourned.

PROFESSOR. What German philosopher took this view Mr. H.?

JUNIOR. Ferrier!

Professor, (evidently thinking of Pinafore) "He is an Englishman." (Sensation.)

THERE were three Youngs at the Alma Mater Society meeting on Saturday. The Secretary asked how he could distinguish them. Call them Young, Younger, Youngest, said a junior. (Carried.)

PROF. of Rhetoric: What is the tender part of man's nature? Student, (experienced) the *head*.

DID you ever see a Freshman attempt to kick a football? The other day one tried in vain to kick it over the fence. At length—wearied with the effort—he applied his upper extremities and mercifully threw it over. When it had almost reached the other side—bound to be revenged—he once more attempted to kick it, and came within about 20 ft. of it.

STREET cars are a grand institution. So thought that "grave and reverend," but *amorous* senior as he got aboard the other evening and set out for the land of convicts in search of an "ultimate unity." The street cars didn't wait to bring him back, however. Only the melodious midnight carol of the "barnyard rooster" could hurry him homewards. This reminds one of sliding down hill and walking up again.

THROUGH the energy of the Principal and others a series of lectures have been arranged for, and will be delivered in the College during the session. The course consists of about 14 lectures, all of a high order. Principal Grant gives two of them, one on "Norman McLeod," the other on "Burns." Prof. Dupuis another. Rev. D. Mitchell, of Toronto, is to give the opening lecture. Tickets for the course only \$1.00, students half price.

"This is eating crow," said a freshie as he tugged at the neck of a fried rooster.

THE Principal was chosen President of the Y. M. C. A. Convention held here two weeks ago.

THE Prof. of Rhetoric one day last week explained to the class that we find more pleasure in reading an old work the second time than the first, when a freshman not classically inclined gravely queried: Is there *any* pleasure in reading Homer for the first time? Doubtless the Greek lesson of the previous night had suggested the question.

TERRIBLE explosion in the Natural Philosophy classroom. Cause: the too vigorous use of an air pump.

Result : a cold sweat of fear on the massive brows of the verdant philosophers and a comprehensive smile on the countenance of the genial professor.

The reading room is again supplied with a large and varied stock of reading matter.

A COMMISSION of inquiry is to be appointed as to why the letters are not, as usual, distributed through the famous pigeon hole. No chance for a rush.

THE Glee Club's annual meeting was called for one day last week, but as only two or three attended nothing could be done. We would like to see the Club flourish as it has ever done. But there is one thing we would like to see pushed forward and that is a knowledge of the leading college songs by all the students, although impromptu practices take place in the halls at all hours, still we would like to see a regular practice instituted once a week at least, at which students might become proficient at singing, and thereby render serenades, &c., far more inviting. For what is a serenade without song, and what will a song amount to unless all can join in.

A Young People's Literary Association has been started in connection with Sydenham St. Methodist Church in this city, of which any student desirous of spending a few evenings of the session socially and profitably may become a member.

THE Seniors are sporting very dandy-like canes. So are the Sophs., but theirs are after a more massive pattern. We saw two of these youths bowling up street one evening last week carrying small cordwood stocks, neatly polished and swinging them about rather loosely, too loosely in fact, for one of them lost control over his and it fell with a crash on the board walk. We thought the expression of an old gent who was passing at the time very true when he said "That young'un's stick is too big for him."

THE Secretary of the Elocution Society called a meeting for last night to consider the advisability of keeping up the Society. We are sorry it has come to this, but the way matters stand we think it would be wise to amalgamate the Society with the Alma Mater.

THE divinities have come to swell the throng. Class work began in their department on the 3rd.

DESIROUS of doing our little all to aid in a good cause we take pleasure in publishing this advertisement which appeared on the board during the week :

TENDERS WANTED.

Tenders will be received by the Secretary of the Senatus until Thursday, Nov. 13th, 1879, for the erection of two buildings on the College grounds. As the funds of the University are at a very low ebb, and considering the fact that "winds" and "breezes" are likely to be frequent, very substantial and airy buildings are desirable. Specifications as follows :—

- I.—Outhouses, size 2x4, to be painted *wood color*.
- II.—Stables, size 7x9, not necessarily painted.

By order.

WE cordially welcome back to our halls J. Anderson, who entered with '81, but last year was not with us. May his rest make him all the more vigorous.

THE Medicals purpose holding their annual supper on Thursday, the 13th inst. It will be as imposing as usual.

W. G. BROWN, another entrant with '81, after a year's absence has returned to Queen's.

J. R. POLLOCK, Class of '81, who had to leave College last year owing to sickness, is still from the same cause we are sorry to hear unable to resume his work.

THE Professor of Rhetoric has established weekly essays in his class to aid in increasing their proficiency in the English language.

DR. GRANT preached in the Congregationalist Church on Thanksgiving Day. We would like to let our readers know of the doings of all who are connected with the College, but we must admit that we cannot be responsible for all the Principal's appearances in public as he is here and there and everywhere.

AT the weird hour of midnight of 31st October last a grad. was hastening homeward down Barrie street. As he approached the Court House he heard a confused babel from a crowd whose countenances the midnight haze hid from his wondering sight. While he was pondering on what these nightly spirits were bent, he noticed one who stood head and shoulders above the crowd, and who was trying amid the din to make himself heard. Our grad. though he was some time in passing caught (so numerous were the interruptions) but one sentence, but that sentence was fraught with meaning to his initiated ear. "When first I came to Queen's," said the speaker, "I noticed the unanimity that permeated the whole body of the students." (Cheers and cries of "Correct," "Go it old boy" and other commendatory expressions) "and," said he, continuing, "there were some other things I noticed and they were Cow SHEDS," the rest was lost in terrific cheers and groans, all, however, expressive of that unanimity first spoken of. And as the grad. heard the noise grow less and less as that corps of adventurers went to the scene of their labor, he sighed to think, that it was not for him to join in the good work.

ROYAL COLLEGE.

WANTED, a sub.

DR. YATES' Hospital Clinics are very interesting.

PRACTICAL question. Diagnose salivation from wisdom teeth.

A NEW kind of prudence by a Sophomore. Juris Prudence.

WHAT butchers we are! A Freshman is anxious to "insect."

IT is rather hard on the student who can't read his notes when they are cold.

OUR Janitor is a scholar, he knows the Military College "Gazettes" when he sees them.

A PATIENT during a surgical operation felt the pain too severely and so shouted for "gloryform." Sensible boy.

THE height of laziness. A student too lazy to stop reading because he would have to put down his book. We have the "only live specimen" at the den.

THAT was a sad case of small-pox, doctor. It was treated by red curtains, red counterpane and red wine, and he died. Yes, but the books say he didn't die. Very sad.

"In fraction of the collar-bone obtain a smooth union, especially in ladies, otherwise it will show unpleasantly when 'full-dressed,' that means 'half-dressed.' Oh, doctor, how mean!

ONE of our most successful Final students says he was sent to College by reading the JOURNAL, introduced to his notice by a friend who at the time was attending Queen's. That's encouraging.

## EXCHANGES.

WE have at last discovered "the reason why." Not that peculiarly exasperating and inquisitive book so called, but, the reason why we last week received so few exchanges. We have discovered that our Secretary once left our Post Office Drawer unlocked, and we found it out just in time to prevent the inward expostulations with our exchanges growing to something stronger. This week, however, they have come in with such a will that we can only review a few of them.

THE *Notre Dame Scholastic* is a well edited and newsy paper from Notre Dame, Indiana. Its contributed articles are good, but we think it would be the better for more editorial matter. We might ask the Exchange Editor if he does not think there is a small amount of quibbling in what he says about "Sectarian" and "Catholic," and would call the attention of all desirous of seeing a regular "spread eagle," gushy marriage notice to that incorporated into their personal column.

As we toss the *Scholastic* aside we see an old and a welcome face, the *Roanoke Collegian*, and on its first page we see something which may supply us with a subject for an article next issue. As the rest of the issue is devoted mainly to an account of the opening ceremonies we (of course through want of time) leave it unread, and perhaps, *Collegian*, that is the reason we find nothing to object to.

AND here *The University Herald* turns up once more like a bad penny. Excuse us, friends, and don't draw any inference for we intend none and indeed admit that the *Herald* is fully up to last year's standard. But we feel we are wound up and must now go ahead and come out with something we wanted to say last session. We think the *Herald* is too much spread out. Too much water in her—milk in fact, and we almost think that if she focussed her efforts she might become readable to outsiders—for of course it is an outside standpoint from which we speak.

WELL "boys," allow us, "boys," to congratulate you, "boys," on the *Oracle*, "boys," but "boys" allow us to say, "boys" that while parts of your paper "boys" are very good, "boys," we think it would have been an improvement to get rid of some "good boy"-ishness (per M. T.'s "good little boy") which crops out so abundantly. What is more, if you want to die a natural death, do not for anything print such an article as that "Introspection" again and call it poetry, for it is merely poor prose without a point hashed up into lengths and called blank verse.

SURELY it can't be, 'Yes, but it is,' and as we spell the name a feeling of certainty comes over us. When we read the last issue of last session we presumed that either its editors would be massacred or that they would be afraid ever again to come before the public, but here it is, *Acta Victoriana*, large as life. As we look at the date we see that they started to issue this number last May from a place called Obourg, whose name we do not find on the map, this last, however, is, we presume, an eccentricity of the proof reader. And now as to its contents. As usual its articles are good, but we do not think much good would be done by publishing such letters as that from W. S. Ellis, which is written in a strain much more calculated to excite opposition than sympathy. In the other columns we are glad to notice a commendable absence of those personalities which last year disfigured the columns of the "Acta."

WE have so far looked in vain for our old friends the *Dalhousie Gazette* and the *McGill Gazette*, their absence may be accounted for, however, by the reason mentioned above, so we can hope to see them on our table before next issue.

## CLIPPINGS.

THE sort of invitations now in use by the youngsteis of New Jersey is as follows :

Jimmie Sly,  
To home  
Saturday afternoon, October the 25.  
Dad in New York, the old gal at the sewing society.  
Back Parlor.  
P. S.—It will be a Do-as-you-please.

JOSH BILLINGS says, "In order to have an honest boat race you must first have an honest human race."

WHEN the moon gets full it keeps late hours

RECITATION in political economy.—*Student* (defining).—"Capital is that which assists in future production." *Professor*.—"Should you consider, then, that Adam had any capital?" *Student*.—"I think not, sir—unless his spare rib was his capital."—*University Quarterly*.

INSTRUCTOR in Latin—"Mr. B., of what was Ceres the goddess?" Mr. B.—"She was the goddess of marriage." Instructor—"Oh, no; of agriculture." Mr. B. (looking perplexed).—"Why, I'm sure my book says she was the goddess of husbandry."—*Ex*.

"My son," said a fond father, "emulate the mule; he is always backward in deeds of violence."—*Ex*.

"Can you tell me"—said a punster  
Who had in our sanctum popped,  
And upon the floor was seeking  
For a copper he had dropped—

"Can you tell me why at present  
I'm like Noah's weary dove?"  
And he glanced with inward tremor  
Toward a gun that hung above.

"Wouldst thou know?" he queried, blandly—  
As he dodged the endgel stout  
Which we shied at him in anger—  
"Tis because I'm one cent out."

THE soul has faculties, but this is no proof that the Faculty has a soul as any Junior reconditioned in Logic could tell.—*Yale Courant*.

ONE of the editors was overheard courting a young lady in the following style: "Miss will you have us? We will do all in our power to render you happy."—*Southern Collegian*.

He used to call his girl, "Revenge, —  
Cognomen rather neat,—  
For when one asked him why, he'd say,  
"You know Revenge is sweet."

## RECITATION-ROOM ECHOES.

"How would you make water dissolve more sugar than it would under ordinary conditions?"

"Put in more water."

"How was Martin Luther killed?"

"He was excommunicated by a bull."

"Who wrote before Plautus and what did he write?"

"Moses wrote the Pentituke."

"Is water elastic?"

"Why, sir, no, sir. You can't take a ball of water and throw it and expect it to bound back, can you?"

"What is the effect of a galvanic battery?"

"The effect is shocking."

"If I should put on green glasses and view this class would I not be deceived in their appearance?"

"Well—no, I don't think you would."

"If I set a pendulum swinging in this vertical plane how will I find it in half an hour?"

"Stopped, sir."