

MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Saturday, March 1st, 1884.



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UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

VOL. VII.]

McGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, MARCH 1st, 1884.

[No. 8.

McGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

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THE UNIVERSITY GAZETTE is published fortnightly during the College Session.

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

THE FUNERAL OF A VILLAGE GIRL.

(From the French of M. Brizeux.)

When fair Louise, half child, half woman, died
Like some frail blossom crushed by wind and rain,
Her bier was followed by no mourning train.
One priest alone accompanied who sighed
Brief prayers, to which in accents soft and low,
A boy attendant answered, full of woe.
Louise was poor: in death—our common lot—
The rich have honours which the poor have not.
A simple cross of wood—a faded pall—
These were her funeral honours—this was all—
And when the sexton from the cottage room
Conveyed her light young body to the tomb,
A bell toll'd faintly, as if loth to say
So sweet a maiden had been call'd away.
'Twas thus she died—and thus, by hill and dale,
'Mid broom whose fragrances floated on the gale,
And past green cornfields, at the dawn of day,
The scant procession humbly took its way.
April had lately burst upon the earth
In all the glory that attends her birth,
And tenderly upon the passing bier
She snowed her blossoms, and she dropp'd her tear.
Flowers, pink and white, arrayed the hawthorn now,
While starry buds were trembling on each bough:
Sweet scents and harmonies the air carress'd,
And every bird was warbling in its nest.

GEO. MURRAY.

Editorials.

THERE are few things more interesting and absorbing for us than matters connected with literature and science. Not that we pretend to any surpassing intimacy with the one or the other of these two great departments of human knowledge, to know either of which, even in an imperfect way, requires a lifetime of constant application. But it is not necessary for the imbuing of a man with a love of literature or with a love of science that he should have read, marked and learned every morsel that has ever been written, even in his own language, or have weighed and considered every theory propounded since the time when the earliest philosophers of Greece speculated concerning the origin of the world. Much less does to inspire one with a love of literature or with a love of science. So it was not remarkable that we should have had our attention arrested the other day by an account given by a *Herald* reporter of a mission which he undertook amongst the booksellers and librarians of this city for the purpose of finding out something about the

pursuit of literature by our citizens. The state of things disclosed cannot fail to be dispiriting to the small remnant who have some other aim in life than to amass colossal fortunes, or to become members of the Hunt, or, as trained athletes, to break records. A literary decadence has set in in Montreal; so the booksellers tell us. It must be a relief to feel that the decadence cannot last much longer, for the little love and knowledge of literature that was amongst us twenty years ago has been so steadily decreasing during this period—if we are to believe the booksellers and librarians—that there can be but little left at the present time to take away from. Perhaps the tide having reached its lowest point may soon begin to turn,—or perhaps not. Such a low state have we now reached that our *litterateurs* may be counted by the half-dozen, we cannot find enough people anxious to hear such a man as Matthew Arnold to fill a small hall, and three-fourths of those who did go to hear him were not intelligent enough to appreciate what he said. Our youth, instead of developing a taste for literature, think rather of developing their muscles, and of how they are to get rich enough to join the Hunt, or make a fine display on our fashionable streets, while all their spare evenings are taken up going to hear the plays which Mr. Sparrow provides for their edification and amusement in Cotté Street. The attention of our young ladies is divided between out-door sports, parties, and the romantic adventures related in the cheaper style of novels. Our boys affect dime novels, our more elderly citizens seek ease and spirituous liquors at the clubs, while our sisters pine after the band at the rink. Such is the picture drawn by the sarcastic bookseller, whom the *Herald* reporter first encountered on his tour of investigation. Selling books seems to be bitter work in Montreal, if one is to judge from the wailing and lamentation which the gentlemen engaged in the trade gave forth on this occasion. But their account is, no doubt, somewhat exaggerated. We do not desire to claim a Bostonian character for Montreal; we do not even deny that we can make but a sorry show, so far as literary culture is concerned; but surely we do not wallow in the mire so completely as these booksellers and librarians would have our friends believe. A writer, whom it is hard for us not to believe to have been at one time either a bookseller or a librarian, writes to the same paper complaining that when a Boston lady asked him to show her where our literary people lived, he felt so ashamed for his dear city that he was as an ass that is dumb. Our citizens of literary tastes do not occupy whole terraces nor cover the mountain with their castles. And yet that Boston lady could not have travelled much beyond her native city or else her observational powers were not of that character which the fact of her coming from Boston would have led one to expect. Nevertheless, we think there are men of literary tastes in Montreal, not in legions, perhaps, but in hundreds. So that we do not believe much in this great literary decadence. For when one talks of a decadence, it is naturally presumed that there has first been some extraordinary activity from which the falling off takes place. In Montreal we have had no such literary activity and no such falling off. For its

size, we consider that Montreal will compare favourably with other cities on this continent. One is apt to think of Montreal as a city of about two hundred thousand inhabitants, and to judge of its performances accordingly. This is a great mistake, since there are only about sixty thousand English-speaking inhabitants, and at present we are speaking of them only. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the literary class of our French population to be able to speak of its numbers or attainments. Then, again, this population of sixty thousand is largely given up to commercial employment, so that those who have leisure for literary pursuits are not very many. A man who spends the whole of the day over a desk, prefers, in the evening, some lighter recreation than that to be got out of books. Our booksellers and librarians say that our young men are too much given to out-door sports, and, perhaps, the accusation is well-founded. Certainly we cannot be devoted to literature and athletics at the same time, although the most industrious reader or writer can always find time to enjoy, to a large extent, the invigorating sports of our country. This evil of too much athletics is much felt, at the present moment, in the American Universities, but it cannot be said to have as yet appeared in our own. The evil with us, we imagine, lies rather the other way. But outside the University the case is different. There are not very many clubs or associations of a literary character in the city, and most young fellows devote their energy to becoming gladiators, or to enjoying society in the ordinary way. But when we come to consider the inducements to, and facilities for literary pursuits existing in Montreal, does it seem very wonderful that the citizens, as a whole, are indifferent to these things? Where, for instance, are our public libraries? Where, the counter attractions to the gymnasiums and the billiard rooms! That reporter only performed half his task. He should have enquired of the booksellers and librarians what they thought to be the causes of the present state of things, and what remedies were to be applied. "The less you say about literature in this city the better," is the desponding remark of the publisher who sells books imported under a duty of thirty or forty per cent., while the librarians have no better consolation for us than to tell us that the books most in request are sensational novels. Surely these men of books know how this condition of things could be bettered if we can only persuade them to tell us. In the meantime we do not despair. We refuse to believe in this literary decadence, and we think that for an essentially commercial city of such a size, Montreal is not so very much behindhand after all. Of course, our University has been the most powerful influence, after the booksellers and librarians, in keeping alive what interest in literature has hitherto been manifested, and the centre of influence it must continue to be.

We are glad to hear that the Committee appointed to compile a new song book for McGill is meeting with great encouragement in its labours. A large amount, several hundreds of dollars, we believe, has already been guaranteed for the purpose, and we have no doubt that with a little exertion a sum can be raised sufficient to enable us to have a really good collection of songs published. We again wish the Committee all success in their work.

It is satisfactory to us to know that the course of public lectures specially intended for the benefit of the students of Applied Science has been so far well attended. The faculty of Applied Science owes much of its success to the energy and ability of

Prof. Bovey, and its usefulness has been extended by his late efforts in inducing engineers of high standing to deliver lectures before the students. In view of the great disadvantages under which the faculty is labouring, such as the want of means and a too limited number of professors, we think no better scheme could have been devised for the benefit of the students. The session is now too far advanced to admit of many more lectures being given, but we hope they will be continued next winter.

We were glad to find so close a similarity between the theories relating to bridge construction, enunciated by Mr. Peterson in his lecture, and those of our Lecturer in civil engineering. It will help to encourage Science men in the study of a difficult subject, and may prevent them from foolishly questioning the utility of theoretical knowledge.

THE University Literary Society is an institution of which we do not feel very proud. For a number of years it has been dragging on a wearisome existence, ever threatening to die of inanition. During the present session the debates have been attended on an average by about a dozen members, and a great many of them have been but solemn or unsolemn mockeries. For instance, on the 15th February a subject was appointed for discussion which was of the greatest public interest, and should have given rise to an able and animated debate—it was the University question which is at present attracting so much attention in Ontario. That meeting was an unmitigated disgrace to the Society. None of the appointed speakers attended, and the whole proceedings were turned into a farce. In the earlier part of the season a semi-public debate was held, but it cannot be said to have been a very great success. The Annual Public Debate, which has usually been the one thoroughly successful meeting of the year, has been postponed indefinitely, practically because it was found an impossibility to get it up. This state of affairs is not due in any degree to the officers of the Society, who have been doing their utmost to make it a credit to the University. It is the result of the apathy of the members in general. We could name numbers of graduates who profess themselves supporters of the Society, who now and again, on such occasions, for instance, as the annual meeting for the election of officers, treat the Society to the pleasure of their company, but who on ordinary occasions are very conspicuous by their absence. It is to be hoped that with these gentlemen the love of notoriety does not exceed the love of literature. We are glad to know that the Undergraduates' Literary Society forms a contrast in most respects to the senior institution, and is altogether a credit to the members. We look forward almost with despair to the future of the University Society unless some local habitation for our graduates is found, in which case it is our opinion that a considerable impetus will be given to the work of this and other societies.

A NUMBER of people have lately complained to us of the rule which forbids any of the books given to the University library by the Hon. Judge Mackay from being taken out to be read. We believe it was one of the conditions upon which Mr. Mackay gave his collection that the books in it should not be allowed to be taken out, and of course his wish in this matter must be carried out. The collection is principally composed of law books and reports, most or all of which are useful only to the law student. Now the complaint is, and we consider it a very well founded one, that these books under the present rule are almost useless, because lawyers and law students, who alone are

likely to make use of them, are unable to come up to college in the daytime and spend hours reading in the library. If they could take them out and read them at home, much instruction and benefit would be derived, which is certainly not the case at present. No one appreciates more than we do the intrinsic value of the gift which Mr. Mackay so generously bestowed upon the University, but the value of that gift would be so much enhanced if more facilities were given to readers that we venture to express the hope that the learned and generous donor may be prevailed upon to allow the present restrictions to be removed, since they prevent this valuable acquisition from becoming even more valuable in becoming more accessible. We do not wish to appear ungrateful or unappreciative, but we are sure that no one will recognize the justice of our proposal more fully than Mr. Mackay himself when his attention is properly drawn to the matter.

We have received an anonymous communication upon a subject of considerable interest, from some one who signs himself "One who knows." We feel bound, on account of the grave nature of the accusations contained in this letter, to enforce our rule with regard to anonymous communications, but if the writer will send us his name, we shall most willingly insert his letter in our next issue.

Contributions.

BOOKS AND THEIR INFLUENCE.

(Continued.)

We are not prepared to pronounce a sweeping condemnation of novels, but we must freely confess that in our opinion a large proportion of our modern novels had better be burnt. Of moral influences, or of useful information, they have about as much as the foam of a glass of beer has of substantial nutriment. Such reading unfits the mind for successful work, ruins the memory, destroys aptitude for study, fills the mind with romantic and silly ideas of life, and so unsettles people that they are incapable of that steady application which brings comfort and independence to those who are content to work and wait. They are nothing if not sensational. They deal in slang, and are coarse, even when they are not actually vicious. They create a false belief that wealth and fame are easily and quickly won, even by those who have neither education, natural fitness, nor persistent application. They destroy the natural and healthful appetite for useful reading and study, and even the best of them fritter away time, which, if spent in reading useful matter, would suffice to thoroughly educate the reader in his chosen occupation.

Sir John Lubbock made a capital point against books that would be better burnt, in an address to the medical students of King's College Hospital. Such malarious volumes, which the banker-entomologist did not hesitate to term deadly poison, contained, said Sir John, "The *bacteria* of mental disease, as certain in their operations as any of the infusions of the physiologist!" The warning was most timely and lends force to any statements as to the insidious working of pernicious literature. It is to be hoped that thoughtless devourers of garbage in disguise may take alarm at the dangerous *bacteria* the learned member for the London University held up in *terrorem*. Nor need this be any deprivation. For there would still remain worthy "survivors of the fittest," "books, dear books," that Sir John Lubbock would be the first to admit:—

"Have been, and are, comforts, morn and night,
Adversity, prosperity, at home,
Abroad, health, sickness—good or ill report,
The same firm friends; the same refreshment rich,
And source of consolation."

Let us here say a few words about libraries; let it be clearly understood that a public library can never become anything much better than a literary scrap cupboard, if it is to depend

upon chance donations. If no mind presides over its formation, if no money is placed regularly at the disposal of a committee for the direct purpose of buying books upon a well-considered system, the thing formed is not a library, but a bookstall, in which all the chance collected volumes are to be read, instead of bought, by droppers-in.

We may illustrate this by a reference to the Free Library at Manchester, which may be regarded as a library with sense and light in it, not a dead lump of volumes; but its efficiency is mainly the result of a judicious use of money in the purchase of those books that were of the most sterling character; those that secured a fair supply of right material in each kind of study, or that were in other ways peculiarly suited to the exigencies of the city. We may be sure that in Manchester there is a taste for works on the steam engine, and upon chemistry, which must be met by books of a class that would be little sought in other towns. A public library, as everybody knows, consists of a reference department, containing books that are not to go out of doors, and a lending library. In the Manchester library, to which I am referring, in one year 60,000 volumes for reference were consulted, and 30,000 volumes were borrowed. The reference library is used by all classes, the lending library also, but chiefly by working men and women, 2,000 active borrowers of books.

There is a solidity of taste about this mass of readers to which a report bears curious testimony. Let us note a fact or two concerning it. What now is the kind of reading favoured by these people? These earnest people, who mean work with their heads as well as their hands, use books that are taken from the library by them in the proportion following: In literature, including poetry and fiction, essays, &c., each book is read on an average 15 times a year. Works on theology, philosophy, &c., are next in request; in that class each work was read, on an average, nine times. In history and biography every work had an average of eight readers. The scientific works have had seven readers each, and each work on law, politics or commerce may, in the same way, be said to have been borrowed twice.

There is a fine earnestness about this. Even in Manchester, imagination refuses to be crushed. The most popular novel was Scott's "Kenilworth," which had 34 readers in six months. The pleasure book most read was "The Arabian Nights." These weary mill hands spent their evenings with Haroun Al Raschid. The next best read books appear to have been *Ivanhoe* and *Robinson Crusoe*.

The historical works most favoured were those most dealing in adventure and excitement. Histories of Napoleon and Lives of Wellington and Nelson, were respectively about half as much in request as Gulliver's Travels. Narratives of the Battle of Waterloo were next in popularity. There is one man who has read Alison's History straight through, and a volume entitled "Shipwrecks and Disasters at Sea," was read 25 times in six months. Almost equal in popularity was Gordon Cumming's "Adventures in South Africa." Less in request, but much demanded, next, in fact, in the order of popularity, were Macaulay's "History of England," and Layard's "Nineveh." Let us here interject the very noticeable fact, that out of more than 77,000 volumes issued during the year, only three were lost. A striking proof of the trustworthiness of the English workman.

Life in a library is not altogether without its funny side. One had need serve for a time to complete one's education, and learn some weak points of human nature. Recently, an omnivorous reader, one who wants "something to read," asked for Darwin's "Origin of Species," or "Descent of Man," and being unable to obtain either of those works, contented himself with "Gulliver's Travels."

Another of the same genus, enquired for Gibbon's "Decline and Fall," and after examination, finding it perhaps too heavy a job, thought he would take "Walton's Angler." Still another, who thought Thackeray's "Newcomes" a very stupid book, expressed himself rapturously over Bret Harte's "Luck of Roaring Camp." These are the people who want "something light" to read during the hot weather. At a popular library a gentleman lately got a copy of the latest novel of an eminent

novelist. It was the novel which then all the world was either reading or saying it had read. The gentleman was greatly vexed when he got home to find the volume was wrongly bound, so that its pages were mixed up in inextricable confusion. After patiently trying to make the best he could of it that night, he hurried to the library next day and complained of the state in which he had received the volume. The librarian was at first indignant and incredulous, but there was no getting over the evidence of the ill-assorted pages. Convinced at last, the librarian solemnly assured him that that very copy had been lent to dozens of readers—had been in constant reading since it came into the library—and that no one had ever before made any complaint of its imperfections!

Let us for a few minutes go back to the very beginning of book-making and reflect upon the wondrous revolution effected through the agency of John Gutenberg. Let us place ourselves in his position and endeavour to enter into his feelings as he beheld his first printed page, the fruit of his long and tedious labours. It is recorded that with a trembling hand he caught up the printed paper. It had succeeded beyond his expectation. Tears ran down his cheeks as he gazed upon it with ecstasy. It was the "Lord's Prayer" with which he had made his first attempt at printing with types.

It is well known that the first production of the printing press, the first printed book was the "Bible;" it is impossible to imagine the emotions of those first printers, those cool, yet enthusiastic men, as they beheld the first printed page of the Bible. The press worked well, the type was uniform and elegant, and the expression given on the vellum unequalled in beauty. At sight of it, a glow of honest pride filled each heart, and how could the most undevout repress emotions of praise to God. This was in 1450, but with all the toil and diligence bestowed upon it, it was not completed until five years after, in 1455.

It is difficult to look upon the great changes that have been effected during the last four centuries, and which are still in progress everywhere around us, and not connect them with printing and its inventor.

It is not a little remarkable that the Bible stands at the head of all books as to the number of copies issued from the press; and in the annals of the book trade, Buryan's Pilgrim's Progress stands next; then Robinson Crusoe; Uncle Tom's Cabin, and John Ploughman's Talk, by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

There is one department in literature which appears to us to be neglected now-a-days, and for which we desire to plead. We allude to the writings of the poets;

"Blessings be with them, and eternal praise,
The Poets; who have made us heirs on earth
Of Truth and pure delights, through heavenly lays."

Coleridge says: "I expect neither profit nor general fame by my writings, and I consider myself as having been amply repaid without either;"—and, further, "Poetry has been to me its own exceeding great reward; it has soothed my afflictions; it has multiplied and refined my enjoyments; it has endeared solitude, and it has given me the habit of wishing to discover the good and the beautiful in all that meets and surrounds me." There are critics who feel called upon to vindicate the superiority of what is called useful knowledge. No man recognizes the worth of utility more than the poet; he only desires that the meaning of the term may not come short of its greatness, and exclude the noblest necessities of his fellow-creatures. He is quite as much pleased, for instance, with the facilities for rapid conveyance afforded him by the railroad, as the dullest confiner of its advantages to that single idea, but he sees, also, the beauty of the country through which he passes—of the towns, of the heavens, of the steam-engine itself, of the affections that are carrying perhaps half the passengers on their journey; and, beyond all this, he discerns the incalculable amount of good, and knowledge, and refinement which this wonderful invention is fitted to circulate over the globe, in the diffusion of enjoyment to millions.

"The poet sings
Of what the world will be
When the years have died away."

Happy be that time! and when it shall come, and the world looks back to the steps of its advance to liberty, knowledge and enjoyment; when humanity recounts for its own gratification the benefits derived from those who have gone by, and erects monuments to their names; then there will be due honour rendered to the patriots who have struck for the right and stood against tyranny, confronting its darkest terrors; who have braved alike the will of the despot and of the multitude; who have been the heroes and martyrs of the battlefield, the dungeons, or the scaffold. The world will then remember and render homage to legislators, the creators of society, who loosened the yoke of ages from the neck of nations, who carried institutions up to the wants and spirit of their time, and raised barriers against the retrograding into barbarism.

The world will remember then and honour the philosophers who broke the sceptre of opinions in the schools, allowed not the training to be the subjugating of thought, called into action better motives and methods of inquiry, and discovered new worlds of knowledge for others to explore, and conquer and possess. And together with all these, and not less than any, will the world then remember and honour the poets, foremost in that long procession, the laurelled prophets of future good, which their songs tended to realize; who breathed over the world a spirit of life and aspiration, and who, although perhaps unconsious, were yet in their noblest inspiration chanting the *Marsellaise* of the world's march towards the victories of freedom, civilization and humanity.

It seems to us that all reading, to show any profit to the reader, should leave such sentiments in the mind as are expressed in the following lines:—

"Quaint poems of a far-off age,
In binding dark and old,
But strewn o'er each discoloured page,
Sweet fancies, sweetly told.

That seem, as though a child were I,
To take me by the hand,
And lead me through the years gone by,
Back to a much loved land.

Where sunshine falls in golden bars,
Through woodland labyrinths,
And frail white Wind-flowers lie like stars,
Mid purple hyacinths,

Now, though I softly close the book,
The vision with me stays;
On green young leaves and rippling brook,
On flow'rs and sky, I gaze.

O poet! dead and gone thou art;
But this, thy magic lore,
Doth enter in the reader's heart,
And live there evermore.

O poet! that did'st sing so sweet,
To gladden weary men,
Perchance some day we twain shall meet,
And I may thank thee then."

THE MORALITY OF SHAKESPEARE.

[Portions of a paper read before the Shakespeare Club of Montreal, February 4th, 1884.]

The morality of Shakespeare is of a simple and comprehensive nature. It seems to admit of no other definition than this or something like it: An impulse, the sum of which tends towards mundane right-doing because of mundane peril. And it may be observed, further, that if the peril is incurred, it will lead to mundane failure either partial or complete. To the objection that right-doing is just as vague a term as morality, it may be replied that right-doing is defined in the second of the two commandments on which hang all the law and the prophets. It may be argued, again, that this simple and comprehensive morality can be read into, or read out of, any dramatic author; far from it. There are two species of dramatic work from which it is excluded by the terms of its definition, and the first is that species which endeavours to perform the functions of the pulpit, but in a more popular and life-like way.

There is much matter for curious reflection, if we consider the relation of the church to the drama in past times. The drama fell under the ban of Christianity as that religion rose and subsequently, when the church was compelled, by a thousand fears and fancies, to make an appeal, forcible and easily in-

telligible, to a sphere which comfortable monasticism could not reach without much effort, theology wedded the drama. By slow development and by the absorption of new and strange elements, the alliance produced popular entertainments, known all over the west of Europe. The Mystery Plays, acted with much pomp and circumstance throughout England, were really serious ecclesiastical performances; but, although they never lost their spirituality, yet they proved objectionable to a large body of churchmen when the management passed into the hands of the laics, so that in the end, church and stage were again hostile. Shakespeare, very likely, saw these Mystery Plays—he certainly knew something about them since he introduces such knowledge into his plays more than once. This species of drama—the term drama is used literally not critically—was the only species existing in England before the Renaissance, and was quite different in aim and mechanism from the great mass of Elizabethan work done by Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Yet in the drama of Shakespeare's fellow play-writers there appear, now and again, distinct signs of more ambitious purpose than are to be found in Shakespeare. This is perhaps due to previous influences, or to the large amount of the mysterious which prevailed in certain quarters, but which the practical tendency of Shakespeare's time was destined to destroy.

The morality of mankind in Shakespeare is not ruled by the visible yet supernatural powers of theology. Shakespeare draws the line between the mundane and the supernatural with a clearness and an exclusiveness which leave no room for doubt on the part of his audience or his readers. The ethical significance of such a play as Marlowe's *Faustus* is, in many aspects, un-Shakespearean. Suppose, for instance, that the main purpose of Marlowe—his morality—is identical with that of a good deal of Shakespeare's work, namely, the inevitable doom that unreasoning and unreasonable ambition brings. Yet the treatment of the same theme is strikingly unlike in the case of Shakespeare's greatest fore-runner, and in the case of Shakespeare himself. The extension of Marlowe is infinitely greater than the extension of Shakespeare; infinitely greater, because it passes beyond the finite and compasses the infinite. "Death," exclaims Shakespeare, and adds almost parenthetically, "God-forsaken death, if you persevere in your ambition." "Death," exclaims Marlowe, "death and damnation; your body is ruined—that is of little account—your soul is the main thing, and your soul goes down into the pit."

"There are the furies tossing damned souls
On burning forks; three bodies boil in lead;
There are live quarters broiling on the coals,
That ne'er can die; this ever-burning chair
Is for o'er-tortured souls to rest them in;
These that are fed with sops of flaming fire,
Were glutted as and loved only of devils,

(Quite a Dantesque touch).

And laughed to see the poor starve at their gates;
But yet all these are nothing; thou shalt see
Ten thousand tortures that more horrid be."

Such a consummation, such a catastrophe as this has no parallel in Shakespeare. The directness of these lines, moreover, their grossness, their plain-spokenness, would have offended his finer and more æsthetic sense. Even in that altogether un-Shakespearean play, *Titus Andronicus*, the reek of blood and slaughter, lamentably gross as it is, is yet the reek of purely human blood and slaughter-sacrifices for human, or rather inhuman ends. Shakespeare's morality was, as has been stated, an impulse towards mundane well-doing, set on foot and determined by mundane peril. He would not—I do not say he could not—he would not write a play with Lucifer and an Evil Angel as leading characters. Human calamity was, in his eyes, quite terrible enough to guide human action. "Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition," he (not Fletcher) says in a tragedy, whose inner purpose is very much the same as that of *Faustus*. "Fling away ambition"—why? Not because Cromwell's soul will be tossed on a burning fork, but because this profound truth is the only residuum of Wolsey's schemes and plots:—

"Had I but served my God with half the zeal
I served my king, He would not, in mine age,
Have left me naked to mine enemies."

An emphatic human climax of an eloquent human argument! And before I proceed to further develop the principle already

laid down, let me add that the transcendent ease of Shakespeare, his rapid sublimation from fact, with everything of lesser note going down to oblivion before the main issue towards which he swiftly moves, heightened the æsthetic sense which he had by nature.

How unlike Marlowe, this:—

"I pass'd, methought, the melancholy flood
With that sour ferryman which poets write of,
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.
The first that there did greet my stranger soul,
Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick;
Who spake aloud,—What scourge for perjury
Can this dark monarch afford false Clarence?
And so he vanished. Then came wandering by
A shadow like an angel, with bright hair
Dabbled in blood; and he shrieked out aloud,
'Clarence is come,—false, fleeing, perjured Clarence—
That stabbed me in the field by Tewkesbury:—
Seize on him, Furies! take him unto torment!'"

A purely æsthetic flash, and not without a strong earthly link. Then, again, in connection with our present topic, consider the Elizabethan borderland between the ecclesiastically supernatural and the practically human, into which I do not think that Shakespeare entered except with human intent, and did not enter, by comparison, largely, at all events. On the borderland of alchemy and of astrology, of diablerie and the black art in general, dramatists like Greene might construct an amusing-serious play, setting forth the relative powers of Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay. Ben Jonson might display his wearily minute knowledge of magicians and their science, but Shakespeare avoided all technical, all specific displays of this nature. The witches in *Macbeth* have a composition and a meaning, the full force of which can be discerned only from their surroundings, and into which it would be beside present purpose to inquire.

The general statements that have been advanced hitherto can be questioned on a score of grounds, but not, I believe, essentially invalidated. Shakespeare, we have been frequently told, knew his Bible extremely well, and used a great deal of that knowledge. By treating him on the partial method, the method of detachment, he can be proved a most orthodox fellow, I doubt not, in the true heart of him. But the partial method will never place him before us in a true light. Let us examine this aspect of the question a little more closely. Hell is referred to at more or less length in some twenty of Shakespeare's plays. Visitors from the unseen world through his pages; even astrologers were not strangers to him. Bolingbroke is a wizard who knows his times,—

"Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night,
The time of night when Troy was set on fire;
The time when screech-owls cry, and ban-dogs howl,
And spirits walk, and ghosts break up their graves,
That time best fits the work we have in hand."

Margery Jourdan can cry,—

"Asmeth!
By the eternal God, whose name and power
Thou tremblest at, answer me that I shall ask; "

and the spirit: which has been conjured up dutifully replies and forecasts the fates of Suffolk and of Somerset. A soothsayer may warn Caesar to beware the Ides of March, as the result of divination; another soothsayer, who can read a little "N Nature's infinite book of secrecy," may be of importance in Anthony and Cleopatra; another soothsayer may explain the riddle in *Cymbeline*; but the vital regard of them all is towards human things. They do not invalidate the statement already expressed; their main business is to fortell the future in this world and not to seek to step over the confines of the next, nor to enforce their authority by creating scenes that make the onlookers cry, as in Marlowe, to the mountains that they may fall on their heads and crush them into insensibility, nor do they strive to make the onlookers repent by force of abject terror. In Shakespeare they are not so much the revealers of the spirit world as the determiners of human action amid human environments.

And so of ghosts and witches and visions. The terrible dream of Clarence, the spirits of the murdered that pass before King Richard's eyes as he lies sleeping in his tent there on Bosworth Field, the majestic figure whose "canonized bones"

had "burst their cerements" that it might nerve Hamlet to the one deed yet remaining in life, the ghost of Cæsar appearing to Brutus on the eve of fate-fraught day, the "weird sisters" in Macbeth, in whose power lie all the fearful issues to come, the thrilling spectre that appears to the king of Scotland in the very midst of a carousal; these are supernatural, if you will—but they start into sight and vanish in all their ghostliness—dim and awful powers-touching humanity in extremes, but leaving humanity to work out those extremes for itself. How far they are the outcome of a disordered mind, how far Shakespeare would have us regard them, in certain cases, as spiritual realities, opens a wide field of conjecture. Yet there seems scarcely a shadow of doubt about the great issues in which they part, being finally human. The tragic ending of the dramas into which they enter is the work of human hands. The heroes fall by their own misdoing, and the curtain drops with their fall; into the future of Richard, or of Hamlet, or of Brutus, or of Macbeth, or of those who are slaughtered directly and indirectly by the infirmities of these, Shakespeare does not seek to pry. It is with them as with all others who die violent deaths. Enough that the "bloody dog" is dead and that Richmond has the crown; enough that murderer meets its just and unjust reward, and that election lights on Fortinbras, however many noble hearts may crack at beholding the ring of corpses that lie round the central figure of Hamlet; enough that Anthony should stand by dead Brutus and exclaim "This was the noblest Roman of them all." For these people lived in a world of thought and action, as men live, were swayed by impulses that would sway all men of their temperament, in their position; on the world's level they uniformly move, and from that level Shakespeare does not venture to take them. Hence, Shelley, when speaking of a dramatist who is sometimes called the Shakespeare of Spain—although the comparison seems to be due to the pre-eminent genius of both than to any real similarity of dramatic treatment by Spaniard and Englishman—insists, as so many have done, on the permanent humanism of Shakespeare, the practical nature of the man in that age of magnificent common sense during which he lived. Similarity between Calderon and Marlowe has been pointed out by several writers on the drama, but these are the remarks of Shelley regarding Calderon and Shakespeare, which are pertinent to the matter before us. "Calderon in his religious Autos has attempted to fulfil some of the high conditions of dramatic representation neglected by Shakespeare, such as establishing a relation between the drama and religion, and the accommodating them to music and dancing, but he omits the observation of conditions still more important, and more is lost than gained by the substitution of the rigidly defined and ever-repeated idealism of a distorted superstition for the living impersonations of the truth of human passion."

The second species of drama which lies beyond the scope of Shakespeare's morality is the drama of intrigue. A few salient differences between Shakespeare and the later Stuarts will lead us on to an examination of the specific morality of one or two of Shakespeare's plays.

CHAS. E. MOYSE.

(To be continued.)

College World.

MCGILL.

CLASS '84, Medicine, has decided at last to have itself photographed. We hear that they intend to revel in a 14 × 11 mounted by special request on a chocolate back-ground.

NOTICE.—A meeting of the Song Book committee will be held on Friday evening, March 7th, in the Reading Room, Arts Building, at 7.30 p.m. Important business. Every member is expected to be present.

FOLLOWING the plan spoken of by us in one of our late issues the lecture room of the German professor has been added to the library. The books used by the students in the Science Faculty will be placed in the new room.

MCGILL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At the regular meeting of this society, the president, Dr. J. A. Macdonald, read a paper upon "Renal Calculus," citing several interesting cases which he had studied, and exhibiting some exceedingly rare and interesting specimens. Mr. H. Larey reported a case and the meeting adjourned.

For the last meeting Dr. R. J. B. Howard has promised a paper upon a subject with which all are very well acquainted, and it is hoped that all the members will attend.

At a meeting of the students in the Faculty of Law held on Monday, 25th ult., it was moved by Mr. C. A. Duclos, B.A., and seconded by Mr. N. T. Rielle, B.A., "that the Annual Dinner of the Faculty be held this year as usual." The motion being carried Messrs. A. Smith, Duffett, and J. R. Murray were appointed a committee to make all arrangements for the same. After other matters in connection with the Dean's prize had been considered the meeting adjourned.

UNDERGRADUATE'S LITERARY SOCIETY.

At the meeting on the 15th February, in the absence of the president, the first vice-president, Mr. A. H. Colquhoun, occupied the chair. Mr. H. S. McLennan read a descriptive essay on the Fisheries Exhibition, dwelling chiefly on the incongruous parts of the several exhibits. The subject of discussion for the evening, "Is England likely to decay as did the nations of antiquity?" was then taken up. The speakers on the affirmative were Messrs. Mahon, McOuat and Calder; on the negative Messrs. Unsworth, Ritchie and Johnston. The debate was an excellent one; the subject was viewed in many different lights, and the speakers gave evidence of careful preparation. Mr. Johnston, who spoke for the first time in the Society, spoke exceptionally well. On the question being put, it was decided in favor of the negative. The chairman, in announcing the decision, congratulated the Society on the new members it has received from the class of '87.

The regular meeting on the 22nd inst. was very poorly attended, and for want of a quorum the chair could not be taken till some time past the usual hour. Neither essayist nor reader made an appearance, and of the speakers announced on the notice-board, only three were present. The question for discussion was:—"Was the banishment of Napoleon I. to St. Helena a warrantable act?" The affirmative was upheld by Messrs. F. Pedley, Hibbard and Chalmers, the negative by Messrs. Topp, Bell, and Solandt. The debate was well sustained, several of the speakers occupying the full time allowed by the constitution. Decision was given in favor of the negative. After the debate a motion was passed to the effect that those members who had been appointed to take part in the evening's proceedings, and failed to appear, be asked to give a reason for their absence, and, in case none is given, that their names be entered in the minutes as defaulters. Every year at this season the Society has had to meet the difficulty of inducing members to take part in the programmes or even to attend. Perhaps it would be well if the meetings were held fortnightly instead of weekly, at least, after the 1st of January. The celebrated Union of Cambridge, which has fostered so many British orators, meets, if we mistake not, but once in a fortnight.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

Mr. C. J. Doherty presided at the usual meeting of this Society on the 15th February. The number of members present was not very great. After the minutes had been confirmed, letters of resignation were read from two of the gentlemen appointed to speak in the public debate, Messrs. F. Hague and E. W. Arthy. The former did not give any valid excuse, but mentioned that Mr. Crankshaw was willing to act as his substitute. Mr. Arthy found it necessary to attend an important educational meeting on the 22nd, and therefore could not take part in the debate. Mr. R. C. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Ritchie, "that the public debate be postponed from the 22nd until the 29th February, to enable Mr. Arthy to take part." Motion carried. Mr. Elliot explained that Mr. Hague was present at the meetings of the speakers and led them to expect that he would take part. Mr. Arthy was also represent-

ed at the meeting. A motion of reconsideration was moved by Mr. Fleet, seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried. The same gentlemen moved and seconded "that the public debate be adjourned *sine die*." Mr. L. T. Leet opposed the motion, and the Chairman thought that there ought to be a debate sometime this year. The motion was carried. The following subject was then taken up: "Should the Ontario Government grant further aid to Toronto University?" None of the originally appointed speakers were present except Mr. Leet, who had given notice of his inability to take part. Messrs. Mignault, Downie and Duffett sent no excuse. The conduct of these gentlemen is deserving of the heaviest censure, especially Mr. Downie, who had the effrontery some time ago to complain of his never having a chance to develop his oratorical powers at the meetings of the Society. Mr. Barnard, who had agreed to speak second on the negative side of the question, explained that he could not well be called upon to open the debate. Mr. Ritchie moved seconded by Mr. Smith, "that the subject be reversed so as to allow of Mr. Barnard's taking the affirmative side." Mr. Barnard then proceeded to convulse the meeting with laughter. He explained that he knew nothing about the subject, but the Secretary had informed him that Toronto University was a sectarian institution and that it wanted more, which reminded him that a great many other institutions wanted more, such as the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk, and so on. He presumed *a priori* that Toronto was in need of more, and as Sir John A., Mr. Blake, and all our great men had been educated in the Law Faculty of Toronto University he considered that Toronto University should get more. Mr. Smith followed with a few words for the sectarian Colleges. He called the statement that Sir John A. was educated at Toronto in question, and he would like Mr. Barnard to correct him if he was wrong. Mr. Barnard said he knew nothing at all about it. No one else being desirous of speaking, Mr. Barnard claimed his right to make a reply. He said Mr. Smith had stated that the speakers in the debate were not very strong in facts, but he wished to say that it was principles they wanted, not facts. This ended in a most complete fiasco what should have been one of the best debates of the season.

On 22nd February a sufficient number of members to form a quorum did not attend. After waiting until long after the regular hour for commencing, namely, 8 p.m., the Chairman took the chair, and Mr. C. S. Campbell read his essay on "Land Reform." Mr. Campbell criticized adversely Mr. George's late production, and afterwards advanced two measures which he considered would have a very great effect in remedying the evils of the present systems. These were the adoption of the Torrance system of registration, and the abolition of testamentary rights. Mr. C. J. Doherty, in opening the discussion, said that while he thought that Mr. George's arguments would impose upon no intelligent man, he thought the proposals of the essayist quite inadequate to effect a reform. He denied that there was any absolute ownership of land, and contended that the cultivator should have the first claim on the products of the land. He also referred at some length to the Irish land question, and upheld the principles of the Healy clauses of the Land Act. Mr. McGoun followed with some brief remarks taking an opposite view of the matter, and showed conclusively that ownership in land had to be recognized if private property was to be recognized at all. After an informal discussion of an animated character in which most of those present took part, the meeting adjourned.

On the invitation of the editors of the *Gazette* a number of graduates and others met on Saturday, 23rd February, to discuss the advisability of organizing a University Club in this city, such as we spoke of in our columns a short time ago. The result of the meeting was that it was decided that steps should be taken at once to carry out the proposed scheme. For this purpose two committees were appointed to see after suitable rooms and take other preliminary steps. These committees were to report to an adjourned meeting to be held on 1st March. It has not yet been decided whether undergraduates will be admitted to the advantages of the club or no.

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE.

A LARGE number of Scientists gathered in the Seniors' classroom on the evening of the 17th inst. to hear Mr. Peterson's lecture on Bridge Construction. Mr. Peterson, who is now chief engineer of the Atlantic and North Western Railroad, has had much experience in erecting bridges, and his remarks were replete with practical knowledge and suggestions in regard to this branch of engineering, which were of interest and value to the students. He confined himself mainly to the Pratt form of truss in which Phoenixville columns were used. The lecture was illustrated by a large number of plans and tracings.

On the 23rd inst., A. T. Taylor, M.R.I., B.A., delivered an interesting lecture on "Architecture as a Study," being a glance at the origin and development of the modern styles. In well written language he traced the art from its earliest stages to the present, showing at the same time the influences which affect it and the knowledge to be gained of the character of ancient nations by a study of their forms of architecture. He then described the several styles and tried by means of drawings, photographs and black-board sketches, to give the audience clear ideas of the distinguishing features of each. Of the three sub-divisions of classic architecture the Doric was described as massive and heavy, the Ionic, more graceful and beautiful, while the Corinthian was the culmination of Grecian decorative art. The Romans were the first to make an extended use of the arch. The development of the Gothic in Northern Europe was traced. The rugged Normans were great builders, particularly of churches, which were bold and massive, such being common to their style, together with the round arch, and the zigzag, billet and lozenge ornaments. The early English began near the end of the 12th century and lasted till the close of the 13th. This style may be recognized by its clustered columns, pointed arch, undercut mouldings, traceries, stiff leaf foliage, and dog tooth ornaments. The decorative style followed, in which were introduced larger windows, flatter mouldings, and more flowing lines of tracery, the wallflower and four-leafed being the most commonly adopted ornaments. Other styles were similarly described.

At the close of the lecture considerable time was spent in examining the large collection of views and drawings, on each of which the particular style was written, thus enabling the students to make comparisons between the several forms.

GENERAL.

YALE spends \$50,000 on athletic grounds.—*The Undergraduate*.

YALE'S share of the gate money at the Princeton-Yale game was \$600.

OF the 1,474 students at Oberlin, 776 are ladies.—*The Undergraduate*.

UNION COLLEGE has conferred the degree of LL. D. on President Arthur.

ENGLISH literature is the most popular of the elective courses at Williams College.

GERMAN has supplanted Latin in the last three years of the course at Williams.

STUDENTS at Cornell University exhibit an increasing liking for scientific studies.

PRINCETON'S base-ball nine received \$4,600 from their games last season.—*The Undergraduate*.

PRESIDENT PORTER, of Yale, is preparing a book on the Ethics of Kant.—*The Undergraduate*.

A PRIZE of \$3,000 is offered to the student who passes the best entrance examination at Brown.—*Etz*.

THERE are now 452 students in Cornell University, forty-five more than at this time last year.—*Herald-Crimson*.

THE tuition fees at Princeton have been raised from \$75 to \$100. The standard for admission has also been raised.—*The Undergraduate*.

A SUBSCRIPTION of \$23,000 has been raised at Yale for a Young Men's Christian Association building, to be erected on the campus.

BOTANY must be a favorite study with the professors of Harvard, for it is said that two of them are preparing works on the subject.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY will be represented at the Tercentenary of Edinburgh University by its chancellor, Mr. Sandford Fleming, C.E., C.M.S.

JAMES RUSSEL LOWELL will represent Harvard University at the Tercentenary celebration of the University of Edinburgh in Easter week.

PRESIDENT BARTLETT, of Dartmouth College, announces that \$250,000 has been given the college within the last three years.—*Ex.*

A JAPANESE student has been selected for the important position of assistant to the professor of anatomy at Berlin University.

The catalogue of the University of Vermont shows that there are in the institution 271 students, of whom 86 are in the department of arts and science.

The class of 1829 of Harvard College has many surviving members. At the recent annual dinner Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Rev. James Freeman Clarke, Judge Townsend, and about twenty others were present.—*Ex.*

The American colleges derive two-fifths of their income from tuition fees, which is four times the proportion which the English Universities get. Students furnish them with only one-tenth of their yearly resources.—*Ex.*

The De Pauw University, in Greencastle, Ind., is to have eight more buildings—a law college, a medical college, a theological college, an observatory, two dormitories, and other structures—to be erected without delay.

In Colonial times, absence from prayers at Harvard was punished by a fine of 2*l.*; absence from public worship, a fine of 9*l.*; tardiness 2*l.*; for going to church before the ringing of the bell, 6*l.*; for "profane cursing," a fine of 2*s.* 6*d.*; for playing cards, 2*s.* 6*d.*; lying, 1*s.* 6*d.*; sending for beer, 1*s.* 6*d.*; fetching beer, 1*s.* 6*d.*; for going into the college yard without the proper garb, 9*d.*—*Ex.*

A FIELD of about three-fourths of an acre in extent has been added to the Botanical Garden at Harvard College for the special purpose of illustrating Professor Gray's "Manual," which comprises the plants which grow east of the Mississippi and north of North Carolina. The field will be transformed into a miniature country of mountain, marsh and plain, with the design of securing the varied conditions of shade, moisture and temperature demanded by the different plants.

The faculty of Kenyon College have imitated somewhat the example of Amherst College, and have passed regulations with regard to the discipline of the College. For the future, any student who obtains a term grade of 75 per cent. in any study need not be examined in that study at the end of the term. The system of hearing excuses for absence has been abolished, and the whole object of the faculty (unlike that of the faculties of many institutions) seems to be to encourage the students to govern themselves as far as possible, without abusing their privileges.—*Ex.*

The University of St. Andrews is not alone in honouring American scholarship. Dr. Charles Waldstein, a member of the junior year of the class of 1875 at Columbia College, who has been delivering, during his brief visit to New York, three lectures on Greek art and archaeology before the Columbia Alumni Association, is the newly-elected director of the Fitzwilliam Art Museum, Cambridge University, England. There were six competitors for the place left vacant by Professor Sydney Colvin's transfer to the British Museum, and the cry against the choice of a foreigner was raised in this case as with Mr. Lowell.

THE *Undergraduate* in its February number has an article on Canada and the Canadians. The writer evidently thinks that

we are all waiting anxiously for the moment when we shall be able to overthrow our present form of government, and either become independent or ask to be annexed to our powerful neighbour. Mr. Blake's motion last session seem to have given strangers the idea that we are pining to make commercial treaties with foreign nations, but are not allowed to do so by the wicked British Government. The article referred to is written in a nice spirit, and refers in eulogistic terms to the extent and resources of our country.

We understand that Messrs. Justice Hensley, A. A. Macdonald and Malcolm McLeod, have consented to act as trustees of the funds of the Daniel Hodgson Scholarship. The trustees met on last Saturday, and drew lots to decide the rotation in which the scholarship should go to the three Universities, with the following results: (1) King's, Windsor; (2) Laval, Quebec; (3) McGill, Montreal. They also requested the Rev. G. W. Hodgson to act as Honorary Secretary.—*Charlottetown Examiner.* [The scholarship thus comes to this Province for the next three years, the holder being required to pursue his arts studies at the University of King's College. The value of the scholarship is \$125 a year, tenable for three years.—*Hatifax Chronicle.*]

EXTRACTS from the report of the trustees of Columbia College, to the regents of the University of the State of New York, which was adopted on December 3, 1883, have been printed by order of the trustees and distributed among the alumni and friends of the college. They show that for the year ending September 30, 1883, the total number of students was 986. The grounds and the several buildings used by the institution are described at length, and the grounds are estimated to be worth \$400,000; the buildings and furniture, \$1,015,000; making a total valuation of \$1,415,000. The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 1,212, making the present number of volumes 50,320, whose estimated value is \$170,672.56. The value of apparatus and collections is placed at \$209,284.46, and of the herbarium at \$26,300. The net property of the institution is valued at \$6,195,027.03. The total revenue derived from various sources was \$342,301.73, and the total expenditures \$555,691.61.

NEW HAVEN, February 1.—At the meeting of the senior class of Yale College to-day a most unusual proceeding took place. W. M. Spear introduced the following resolution:

Whereas, the present senior society system creates a social aristocracy, exercises an undue influence in college politics, fosters a truckling and covering disposition among the lower classes, creates dissensions and enmities in every class, alienates the affections of the graduates from the college, stifles the full expression of college sentiment by its control of the college press;

Resolved, That we believe this system detrimental to the best interests of Yale College and injurious to ourselves; that we request the college press to publish this resolution of the senior class; that the chairman and two others, to be appointed by him, be a committee of three to lay this resolution before the president, faculty and the members of the corporation.

This resolution was supposed to voice the sentiment of a large number of the class, which has been growing ever since the class was in its freshman year. Its introduction created a great uproar. About 140 were present, among them a large number of Skull and Bones and Scroll and Key men. It was thought that the discussion would drive them from the room, but in this the non-society men were disappointed. While they did not take a particularly active part, they voted a strong negative and had sufficient influence to squelch the non-society men by a vote of 60 to 49. This vote does not by any means express the sentiment of the non-society men in the class. The society men themselves openly demonstrated this morning that, when occasion requires, they can talk about their societies or listen to discussions concerning them as freely as any other persons. Nothing else is talked about on the campus to-night, and the bad feeling already existing is likely to increase, for the non-society men say that they do not propose to let the matter drop.—*Boston Globe.*

THE formal renunciation of anti-secret society principles by the Delta Upsilon fraternity at the convention with the chapter at Brown University, the more recent unconditional repeal of the anti-fraternity laws by the authorities of Vanderbilt University, and the radical change in policy announced in the last number of the *Occident*, of the University of California, until now a rabid anti-fraternity organ, are significant indications of the general breaking up of the hostile spirit that prevailed against college secret societies in many quarters some ten years ago. The reasons for this gratifying change of opinion are, in part, the almost total disappearance of those organizations that in the early days of college fraternities mistook the true purposes of those societies to be such as to lower the intellectual and moral tone of their members, the careful maintenance of a high standard of membership by the influential fraternities, the better understanding of the fraternity system by its honest opponents, and finally the sheer exhaustion of those that heretofore have maintained a vigorous tilt at the windmill for exercise's sake, on finding that the windmill stands the attack much better than they.—*High School Index.*

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 5.—The largest mass-meeting held by Princeton students for several years met in the drill room of the gymnasium this afternoon to reconsider the boating question. After the misfortunes of the crew last year, the opposition to boating was prevalent. However, the question was much discussed, and, after some strong opposing articles in the *Princetonian*, a meeting was called to elect officers of the boating association and to consider the advisability of supporting a crew in the college. The meeting resulted in a unanimous decision in favor of the sport. The following issue of the *Princetonian* contained a leading article condemnatory of the meeting, and its action was sustained by a number of letters from the Alumni condemning boating. This policy was pursued by the paper through two numbers, and, as a result, and to afford the college another opportunity to express its opinion, the meeting this afternoon was called. Arguments were made at some length by speakers on both sides. Mr. Harlow, '84, managing editor of the *Princetonian*, announced that the ground taken by the paper was an expression of his own views, rendered without consultation with his colleagues. It was also stated that two-thirds of the members of the board were in favour of boating. A vote resulted in the sustaining of the boating association. The excitement caused by the *Princetonian's* campaign has been very great. The votes in opposition numbered a scant dozen, and the position of boating in the college is rendered more stable than ever. About forty men are now in training for the crew under the direction of Mr. Bird, '85.

THE WILL of the late Evangelinus Apostolides Sophocles, University Professor of Greek at Harvard College, has been filed in the Probate Court at East Cambridge. It bears the date of December, 1880, and has a codicil attached, dated April 4, 1881. The bequests are as follows: To the president and fellows of Harvard College, all the books of the deceased, together with the stereotype plates of his Greek Lexicon; to the daughters of T. W. Harris, fifty shares of railroad stock and the money now on deposit in the Cambridge Savings Bank; to the daughters and grand-daughters of the same person the income from certain railroad shares now held in trust, said income to revert to the female issue of said daughters and grand-daughters, and in case there be no such issue, to revert to the college. The rest and residue of the estate is bequeathed to the president and fellows of Harvard College, in trust, as a permanent fund, to be known as the Constantine Fund, in memory of the uncle of the deceased. The income of this fund is to be expended annually in two equal parts, the one to be used in the purchase of Greek and Latin books for the college, and the other to be devoted to the publishing of the catalogue of the library. Provision is also made for the use of a part of the income from the fund by the president and fellows of the college, and, at their discretion, for the publishing of an edition of the Greek Lexicon, in preparation by the deceased at the time of his death. Francis E. Parker, of Boston, is named as the executor.

A SYSTEM of instruction for working people has been organized with great success in Copenhagen. At a public meeting held in the autumn, the number of workmen desirous of attending the classes was found to be upward of 3,000. There are at present 136 classes, with 132 teachers, dispersed over the town in 17 different houses. There are 15 classes of women, comprising about 200 students, for the most part under female teachers. The women are taught hygiene and the chemistry of housekeeping, besides the elementary sciences and languages. Some of the male pupils have asked for instruction in book-keeping and the elements of law; others for help toward their own special employment. The painters wish to get information about the chemistry of colors, the smiths about metallurgy. Men who work by night have been formed into classes; the bakers get their instruction early in the evening; and the men at the gasworks, who work by day and night in turn, get their instruction during one month with the rest of the students in the evening, and during the next month have special classes in the day time. The whole undertaking has roused an interest among the working people which, based upon an increasing and more and more consciously recognized desire for knowledge, promises good results for the whole society, if directed rightly. It has been considered best to let the plan grow according to the wants and desires of the laboring classes, instead of obtruding any completely arranged plan upon them; and this way of proceeding has evidently met with their approval.

WE acknowledge with thanks the following exchanges:—*The Tech, College Student, Normal News, Hamilton College Monthly, Dickinson Liberal, St. Mary's Sentinel, The Tuftonian, The Student, Harvard Advocate, The Polytechnic, The Atano and San Jacinto Monthly, University Cynic, The Cha dock, The Atlantis, Richmond Miscellany, The Illini, The Spectator, Queen's Coll ge Journal, Morris College Review, Dalhousie Gazette, The Argosy, Wollestock Gazette, Acadia Athenaeum, The V. P. Journal, Astram Alberti, Acta Victoriana, Knox College Monthly, The Varsity, The Undergraduate, and The Epsomian.*

Between the Lectures.

LIGHT afflictions—Gas bills.

Do you belong? No! Bully for you! Let's have a drink!

"The boy stood on the burning deck."—"Yes, because it was too hot to sit down."

MAY NOT death be called, "an indefinite, or unavoidable postponement of respiration?"

By special request, no reports of surgical (?) operations (on the cadaver) will appear in these columns.

It is said that nature has written a letter of credit on some men's faces which is honoured everywhere it is presented.

An old maid, who hates the male sex most vehemently, cut a female acquaintance who complimented her on the buoyancy of her spirits.

"WHAT building is that?" asked a stranger, pointing to the school-house. "That," said the boy addressed, "why, that's a tannery."

A young lady, on being asked what business her lover was in, and not liking to say he bottled soda, answered, "He's a practising fizician."

THIS is how a parlour-maid the other day corrected the pronunciation of a fellow-servant, a page: "Don't say ax, you vulgar boy; say harsk."

JONES.—"What did you think of my argument, Fogg?" Fogg.—"It was sound, very sound (Jones delighted); nothing but sound, in fact."

A MAN sat musing upon a cane-bottom chair. At length he said: "I wonder what fellow took the trouble to find all them ere holes and put straw around 'em."

No, my son, do not learn to be an undertaker. If you settle in a healthy town, you will starve. If you start in an unhealthy town, you may die yourself.

Dr.—“Well, Fat, have you taken the box of pills I sent you?” Pat.—“Yes, sir, I have; but I don't feel any better yet; maybe the lid hasn't come off yet.”—*July.*

A CONSIDERATE hotelkeeper advertising his XXXX concludes the advertisement:—“Parties drinking more than four glasses at one sitting, carefully sent home *gratis* in a wheelbarrow.

Doctor,” said a young man, “there is something the matter with my brain; I know there is. What shall I do about it?” And the Doctor calmly suggested that it probably needed exercise.

THE HUNTING OF THE ZAITES.

(After the Hunting of the Saurk.)

The Chronic's speech:—

We have worked many months, we have worked many years,
(Seven years to the course I allow),
But a secret society has, it appears,
Come among us—I cannot tell how.

Now listen, my meds, while I drum in your heads,
The five unmistakable traits
By which you may know, ere homeward you go,
The “warranted genuine” Zaites.

Let us take them in order; the first is the brain,
Conspicuous by its absence.
By no idios- on the head can you cause a Zaito pain,
For their skull-cap's remarkably dense.

Their habit of staying up late, you'll agree,
They carry too far, when I say
That I've seen them come home from a Saturday spree
At 2.30 the following day.

The third is a fondness for passing their jest
Upon any one outside their clique,
They imagine their humour is some of the best,
Though it really is curiously weak.

The fourth is a hatred of lecturing rooms,
That always proves not to their taste,
But they get on first-rate in mission funes,
If they happen in such to be placed.

The last is ambition, and fain would I write
Something pleasant concerning each one,
But I fear they would kill me from envy and spite,
For which virtues they capture the bun.

JUN-BOO.

“I'm glad Billy had the sense to marry a settled old maid,” said Grandma Winkum at the wedding. “Gals is nifty-city, and wilders is kinder overuvern' and upsettin'. Old maids is kinder 'thankful and willin' to please.”—*Ec.*

FROM the St. Mary's (a U. S. Military School) *Soutine'*:
(Scene at target practice.)—Did you hit the target? I don't know. Captain,—wait 'til the smoke rolls by. My goodness 'Bill' retreat; you've shot a cow! (All faint.)

ECCENTRIC EPITAPHES.

A PUBLISHER.

“Poor John Scott lies buried here,
Tho' once he was bold, hale and stout,
Death stretched him on his bitter bier,
In another world he hops about.”

AN ORGAN BLOWER.

Under this stone lies Meredith Morgan,
Who blew the bellows of our great organ;
Tobacco he hated, to smoke most unwilling,
Yet never so pleased as when pipes he was filling;
No puffer was he, though a capital blower,
He could fill double G, and now lies a note lower.

A YOUNG musician, remarkable for his modesty and sincerity, on his first appearance before the public, finding he could not give the trills effectively, assured the audience, by way of apology, that he trembled so he couldn't shake.

If that mysterious secret society, the Zaites, follows the absurd custom common in other secret societies of making their novitiates perform absurd antics in public for their amusement, can that in any way account for the strange head-dress in which a student recently appeared at morning lectures.

A NEW VIEW OF THE CASE.—Papa.—“That picture shows Prometheus and the vulture that fed on his liver. The vulture devoured it every day, and every night it grew again for him to eat over again.” Sympathetic Child.—“Poor dear old vulture! How sick he must have been of liver every day.”—*Funny Folks.*

CERTAIN of the authorities were deputed to immerse a middle-aged candidate for baptism. When they returned without him they explained to the minister, that they had made a hole in the ice and proceeded to duck him; but he slipped through their hands and hid under the ice, and that all their efforts to entice him from his hiding place had been in vain.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN.

Oh, J. Sullivan! Oh, J. L. Sullivan!
Oh, John Lycourges Sullivan, all hail!
Thou bottomless infinitude! Thou god! Thou you!
Thou Zeus with all compelling hand!
Thou glory of the mighty Occident! Thou heaven-born!
Thou Athens-bred! Thou light of the Acropolis!
Thou son of a gambler!
Fifty-nine inches art thou round thy ribs; twice twin knuckles
last thou; and again twice twin
Thou scatterest men's teeth like antelopes at play.
Thou straightenest thine arm, and systems rock, and eyeballs
change their hue.
Oh, thou grim granulator! Thou soul-remover!
Thou lithesome, coy excoiorator!
Thou easing dove! Thou droll, droll, droll John!
Thou buster!
Oh, you! Oh, me too! Oh, me some more!
Oh, thunder!!!

Walt Whitman in Life.

A FASHIONABLE young man has acquired considerable fame as a musical bore on the violin. One night, at a social gathering, he announced that he was going to send for a violin and draw a few of Beethoven's symphonies out of it, as it were. To his amazement, all the gentlemen present volunteered to go for the fiddle, and up to date none of them had got back with it.

The story is told of an American farmer who, when once in search of a young bull, arrived at the railway track just in time to see a train coming along at full speed and his bull upon the track with head down and ready for a fight with the locomotive. The old man swung his hat and shouted at the top of his voice: “Go it, you little fool! I admire your pluck, but despise your judgment.”

OWING to symptoms of severe lassitude and bodily fatigue having been detected in the clinical medical class, the committee of the hospital propose to provide each student with an arm-chair and a pair of crutches. The clinical professor will demonstrate from a sofa, and the house physician is to be suspended in a hammock in the middle of the ward, and, when he can stand it, to be fanned by a convalescent.

FRANCAIS COMME ELLE SE PARLE A LA CHAMBRE DEHORS DU
M. G. H.

(Companion to English as she is spoke.)

PHRASES.

Aitvoo Cattee leek?
Toussvoo bookoo?
Avvyvoo Mally tait?
Avvyvoo Dollar?
Avvyvoo maldest omak?
Avvyvooo batnavdy cur?
Avvyvoooy mallowdov.
Je vous donnerai une autre bouteille et quatrevingt dix neuf
pites?
Cawtreglay? Tooty joor? Orevoe.
Oovray labosh! Wilder Sacre! Teery lallong Dammit!
Otay hay poapya komsaw.
Doogoot trawfiewawparjoor.
Prenny awn mouthful delo. Resty trawnkeel! Daame! Avally!
Dumme!!
Avally awnkoar! DAAME!!!!
Revenny awn dojoor. Kursit.

DIALOGUE.

Junior House Surgeon.—Deppwee cawnbyaandy taw avoyvooody
etty mallad?

Patient.—(regretfully).—Me no understand Ingleshe sare!
J. H. S.—(ferociously).—Allyawhell!!!

A LEADVILLE church has the following notice conspicuously posted: “Please do not shoot at the organist; he does his best.”

DING DONG.

By ROSINA CHRISTETTI.

Ding Dong, Ding Dong,
There goes the Gong,
Dick, come along,
'Tis time for dinner.
Wash your face,
Take y ur place,
Where's your grace,
You little sinner?

"Like an apple?"
"Yes, I should,
Nice, nice, nicey!
Good, good, good!"

"Manners, miss,
Please behave,
Those who ask,
Shan't have."

"Those who don't,
Don't want,
I'll eat it,
You shan't."

Baby cry,
Wipe his eye.
Baby good,
Give him food,
Baby sleepy,
Go to bed,
Baby naughty,
Smack his head!

Poor little thrush,
Found dead in a bush!
When did he die?
He is rather high.
Bury him deep,
He won't keep,
Bury him well,
Or he'll smell.

What have horns? Cows and moons.
What have crests? Cocks and spoons.
What are nice? Ducks and peas.
What are nasty? Bites of fleas.
What are fast? Tides and times.
What are slow? Nursery rhymes.—*The Light Green.*

EXAMINATION PAPERS.

We have received an indignant letter from an embryo lawyer asking why the medicals have had examination papers prepared for them while nothing has been done for the other faculties. We can only say that the omission was due to an oversight on our part, and we now hasten to give the following questions for the benefit of the men learned in the law. At some future time, perhaps, we may be able to give the other faculties a helping hand.

LEGAL HISTORY.

(1) By what ordinance of the King was the expression "in de meantime" introduced into Canada, when is it used as an adverb and when as an interjection?

(2) Explain the meaning of *in globo*. (This question is only for the blue ribbon boy.)

ROMAN LAW.

(1) Write a succinct epitome of the whole of Maine's *Ancient Law*. (Only five minutes allowed for this question.)

(2) Tell what you don't know about the Institutes of Justinian. (Three whole days allowed for this.)

CRIMINAL LAW.

(1) Explain the difference between a *roul* and an *affray*. If the candidate in an Aldermanic election receive suddenly and violently a rotten egg in the eye, is this a *roul*? (Note.—Candidates will please not attempt a pun by saying that it is, at all events, a *roul*.)

(2) What is the meaning of the expression "the other day"? If so, when did the riot in the Phoenix Park take place?

(3) Give the decision in the case of *Sprott vs. Brown*.

CIVIL LAW.

(1) In a Parliamentary contest, if one candidate gets 1,000 votes and another 250, which man will be declared elected?

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

(1) Where do the best cigarettes come from? How many may a man smoke in one day?

(2) Who checked the Judge? I, says a little bird. Who wasn't satisfied with His Honor's reading of the law? Echo answers, I.

AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP.

(1) If a man has such a bad temper that no one will go into partnership with him, what recourse has he against himself.

(2) What is the difference between a factor, a broker and a law student? Can a person be a stockbroker and a law student at the same time? Is a clerk a broker, a factor, or a law student?

(3) Write out, word for word, the lectures which have been delivered to you at the rate of sixty miles an hour during the session. (The candidate is warned not to expend too long on this question.)

It is a solemn and awful fact that traces of a secret society have been discovered at McGill. This is supposed to be something like the old Ku-Klux Klan of evil memory. The members are, we believe, desperate ruffians, and are bound by awful oaths to commit various atrocities too awful to be described here. They are all said to have sold their souls to the devil in order to escape being plucked in their examinations. Their habits are said to be nocturnal, and about midnight each of these wretches sallies forth, masked, and armed with a dagger. They have been seen going home at half-past two in the morning—and on Sunday, too! They are said to be extremely exclusive, and it is even stated that they will admit no one unless he has either committed a murder or written an article for the *McGill Gazette*, or perpetrated some other vile deed which makes him a social outcast. Their ideas of dress are, to say the least, very peculiar, and it requires a tremendous exertion on the part of their fellow-students (who are deeply grieved at their depravity in this matter) to prevent some of them who intend to try and graduate this year from appearing in full dress in the chocolate-bordered class picture. Every one of course knows who they are, except the wretches themselves, who, when they are accused of belonging always look confused and deny it stoutly. I nearly forgot to tell what they call themselves. It is either *Zite* or *Zaite*, or something of the sort; they do not mind the spelling, as long as you are sure to put on the "e" at the end. The way in which their existence was discovered is very remarkable. Some profound students of human nature observed that certain men eat about four times as much as any others at the medical dinner, clearly proving their identity. A diligent watch will be kept at future college dinners in all the faculties, and information is daily pouring in from students' boarding-houses. This society should affiliate with the Harvard *Pi Etas*.

"WILLIAM," said a teacher to one of his pupils, "can you tell me why the sun rises in the east?" "Don't know, sir," replied William, "except it be that the 'east makes everything rise." Teacher fainted.

LIGHT-MINDED young thing in a bathing suit: "Surely, Aunt Margaret, you're not going to wear your spectacles in the water! Aunt Margaret: "Indeed I am. Nothing shall induce me to take off another thing."

ON HIS METAL.—Someone has been calculating that there is iron enough in the blood of forty-two men to make a ploughshare. And there is "steal" enough in the blood of one man, as we know without calculation, to make a burglar.

A LADY of fashion, in telling where she was going to spend the summer, said: "I am going to the Isle of Wight, and I am going to take my maid, my nurse, my two dogs, my children, and—and, oh yes, my husband."

"No, sir," said old Tostewater; "there is good in every man." "Yes," said lawyer Greenbag; "there was Jim Slanger; he drank, stole, swore, lied, and followed a bad life for years, and yet when we arrested him the other day——" Here Tostewater interrupted: "You told him of his old mother; of his once happy home. You found some redeeming thing about him?" "We did," said Greenbag, as expectant eyes were fixed upon him; "we found something redeeming about him—it was a pawn ticket."

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