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# The O. A. C. Review.

The Dignity of a Calling is Its Utility.

VOL. VI.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, JANUARY, 1895.

No. 4

## A Trip Abroad.



One who had long cherished a desire to take an ocean voyage the opportunity of visiting England under comparatively favorable circumstances was not to be passed by without due consideration. Accordingly after weighing the inconveniences of being cooped up as a live stock attendant against the advantages which were likely to come from such a voyage, it was decided to undertake the adventure. Having sought out a congenial companion we set off, goad in hand, upon the outside of a flat roofed cattle car bound for Toronto. Arriving there early in the morning we lost no time in procuring breakfast, after which we proceeded to look about us until our train would be ready to start on our journey to Montreal.

The hot, dusty day was drawing to a close as a heavily laden "cattle train" started upon its downward trip. The air was so cool and the country so pleasant to the eye that we climbed to the very highest part of the "caboose," in order that we might be able to command a better view. A delightfully refreshing breeze had sprung up from the east, and as we sped along we began to thoroughly enjoy our ride. Thus we rode for hours; past fields of waving grain, over vast swamps, and through portions of country hilly and rocky in the extreme, and totally useless for tillage. We thought, that if this was "Eastern Ontario" happy were we that our lot had been cast in the more fertile West. The brakeman assured us, however, that this was hardly a fair sample, and that it was much better nearer the lake. Finding that the night air was becoming decidedly cool, we forsook our elevated position for one more comfortable below. After satisfying the inner man by a visit to our lunch pails, we concluded to follow the example of our fellow travellers and soon were in the coils of Morpheus. We were not to be left undisturbed, however, for with the periodical change of "caboozes" came the occasional look at the animals in our charge.

When morning dawned the country had a more fertile look, though still much behind that of the West. The farms, however, betokened careful attention, and it seemed that the natural disadvantages had stimulated the owners to greater exertion in order to compete successfully with their brothers in the Western part of the Province. One remarkable difference between this part and the West was the almost entire absence of "bank" barns. The farmers seem not to have risen to that state of civilization, for surely there is no lack of material, especially stones. The period of vegetation also is considerably later, there being quite a noticeable difference in the ripening of the grain.

As we neared Montreal the methods of farming became more and

more primitive. Here and there could be seen the small white house of the French habitant, while in the fields could be seen men and women piling hay upon rather ancient looking carts. The hay was put in small stacks here and there through the field, I suppose following the practice still common in Ireland of stacking it first and then restacking it to larger ones before the winter sets in. On coming to the suburbs of the city the railway took a curve northward around the mountain, so that from our elevated position on the top of the car, we obtained a delightful view of that massive, verdure crowned prominence. At our feet on our left, and also on the right between us and the mountain, were situated many pretty flower and vegetable gardens. In fact gardening seems to be the sole occupation of these suburban inhabitants.

Arriving at the stock yards in Hochelaga we reported at the Live Stock Office and engaged to cross the Atlantic. Late in the afternoon we were called upon to help "run" the cattle on board, after which we procured supper and provided our-elves with a stock of provisions to be used as a supplementary adjunct to our ocean fare. On examining our vessel we found her to be a freight steamer of rather small tonnage, and not very heavily laden. She was booked for Newcastle-on-Tyne, and we looked forward to seeing some magnificent and picturesque sights among the ice-bergs and along the shores of Scotland.

It was late on Saturday night when at last the hammering and shouting having ceased we prepared for rest. The air being insufferably close and hot we decided to vacate our berths and take our rest among the fragrant hay. At four o'clock the following morning our good ship weighed anchor and soon we were steaming down the placid water of the River St. Lawrence.

Sunday was not entirely a day of rest, as there was a great deal of necessary labor to be performed. Many of the cattle had to be retied and re-arranged, and then there was the feeding and watering to be attended to. The water which was carried as ballast was pumped twice a day into large barrels and then taken thence in pails to the troughs. Although the water was fresh much care had to be exercised as to the quantity each animal received. The food too was sparingly used at first. In fact for the first two or three days there was nothing fed but hay. Later on, however, a little "chop" and bran were added to the ration.

As we passed by the rock-bound coast of cold Newfoundland and icy Labrador, the temperature became considerably colder, but the brilliancy of the shooting Aurora and the flashing phosphorescence made us loath to leave the deck. One morning we awoke with a distinct recollection of winter and found that during the night we had run into a field of floating ice. On all sides could be seen masses of

ice, some as large as two or three vessels the size of ours. When the sun began to rise the scene was indeed a magnificent one. Near us was an immense berg and along the top from end to end were perched several successive rows of differently colored sea gulls.

As we neared the coast of Scotland the scenery became really grand. Along the coast were hundreds of fishing boats with their nets set for the tasty red herring so much prized as a food throughout many parts of the British Isles. The coast was so high, in many places, as to be inaccessible, while the waves beat with crushing force upon the rocks. At other places the land sloped down to what appeared to be a sandy beach where the banks of sand could be plainly seen. It was while passing here we obtained an excellent view of John O'Gro's house, at one time the most northerly dwelling in Scotland. A little further down the Eastern coast we passed a lighthouse said to be the one famous as the abode of the heroine Grace Darling. Entering the mouth of the Tyne and passing Shields we dropped anchor at Newcastle, a dingy, smoky looking city, some distance up the river, and thus ended a pleasant and profitable voyage.

J. H. B.

## AGRICULTURAL.

### The Bare Fallow.

IN the consideration of this subject it is not our intention to treat of the latest and most approved methods of working the bare fallow, but rather to hasten, if possible, the steadily growing conviction that bare fallowing may be advantageously left out of the category of farming operations. This conviction is being induced by the discovery of more economic ways of attaining the objects for which the bare fallow was originally designed, and by the further revelation that some of the apparent accomplishments of the system are only superficial and ultimately of a negative rather than of a positive character.

The chief function of the fallow in English practice, and in fact in the agriculture of most other countries, was formerly to prepare the land for wheat. Its use at present is very similar, but it does not, in this country at least, so invariably precede the wheat crop. The benefits ultimately derived by the land from this preparation are: a thorough cleaning from weeds; an improvement in the mechanical texture; the integration of the mineral constituents of plant food; the formation of nitrates by the oxidation of ammonia and nitric acid brought down by the rain, and the further absorption of ammonia directly from the air. Now as it is our object to repudiate the economy of the bare fallow, we shall assume, and we are not prepared to qualify the assumption in the least, that these favorable results may be obtained without entailing the loss of a season's crop, and the increased labor necessary to a properly worked fallow. Space will not permit of giving the subject more than a superficial treatment, but it is hoped that the suggestions given, and the statement of a few of the facts bearing on the question may induce a more thorough investigation of the principles underlying the proposed remedies for the wasteful and expensive bare fallow.

With regard to cleaning the land, the various methods of treatment which it undergoes in the proper cultivation of the different crops of a rotation will generally prove fatal to the most persistent weeds. The cultivation essential to this year's crop will take place at a season when the slightest disturbance will destroy a great many of the pests. The land next year, under other crops, will receive different treatment which will in turn be unpropitious to the habits of other weeds. Some are checked by the smothering influence of early, quick-growing crops. A great many are prevented from ripening their seeds by being prematurely cut in harvesting the meadow crops. In the same way the plough system is a fertile means of weed exter-

mination. There may be a few of the intruders which will adapt themselves to any of those conditions, but every properly organized rotation system has its special cleaning crop, the careful management of which will effectually rid the land of all objectionable plant life. Some will object to the hoe crop entirely supplanting the bare fallow on the ground that a fourth or a fifth of the land is more than is needed for these crops. The increased acreage of corn, now grown for ensilage, will help to remove this objection. An excess of hoe crops may be obviated however by following a partial soiling system in which case the cleaning crop would be more varied.

One of the most serious charges that may be made against the bare fallow is that of the loss to the soil it entails by leaching and volatilization. While it is true that some plant food is acquired and a great deal more of that already possessed is rendered valuable, it is also true that these additions and changes take place while the land is under a full crop; but the disadvantage in the former case is, that before this food will be needed for the next crop the greater part of it may have gone down the drains or passed into the air. It would therefore seem that the land should not be without a crop any longer than absolutely necessary. Continual cropping would reduce to a minimum the losses in the ways mentioned, as the plant food would be made use of as fast as it became available.

Nitrification takes place chiefly during the warm summer months, too late to be of much benefit to the cereal crops, which require their nitrogen in the earlier part of their growth. There is, therefore, at the end of summer, usually, an abundance of nitrates in the soil, which being very soluble, are ready to contribute to plant growth if an occasion offers itself, and are equally ready to be washed out of the soil by the fall rains. It would be better then, in order to conserve this nitrogen, to keep the land under a crop during the autumn months. There would be a wide difference between this practice and the bare fallow system, which would require the soil to be void of vegetation not only in the fall but for a year at least, and in the case of spring sown grain much longer.

It is now becoming a frequent practice to sow the land with rye immediately after harvest and pasture this during the fall. It may be plowed under just before winter or in the early spring, or allowed to grow until early summer, when it might be cut for hay or green fodder and the land afterwards sown to rape, which may in turn be pastured by sheep or used as a soiling crop. The economy of this practice as compared with the fallow is seen in the threefold purpose which it serves, viz., preserving the nitrates and other soluble food constituents; checking the growth of weeds, which it certainly does, and supplying an immense amount of food in the form of pasture or otherwise. Of course it will not be expected that under this treatment the land will gain much in fertility. It will however, whether the green crops were pastured or plowed under, have lost virtually nothing by removal and gained something from the air and subsoil, and we are satisfied, that the bare fallow, even after it has received a liberal manuring at the expense of the other fields of the farm, will not be in a better condition in this respect than the field thus treated. We must not be contented however with the fact that our land is not losing in fertility. We should strive to make it more fertile if possible. The possibility lies in the extensive growth of leguminous crops, especially of clover, the virtues of which we spoke at length in a recent issue.

In some cases, on a light sandy soil for instance, it may be difficult to get a "catch" of clover, but even failing in this, it will be useless to resort to the bare fallow, as, there of all soils, containing such a small amount of convertible organic and mineral water, are the least benefited by exposure. In such cases it will generally be possible to get a foundation for the clover crop by liberal applications of farm-yard manure, potash, and superphosphates.

We have only had time to hint at a few of the most important facts relative to the question under consideration. Nothing new has been advanced, the object being merely to draw attention to facts which are very generally known but which do not so generally form

the basis of practice. In our opinion the old saying, "The land wants a rest," is an anachronism, and the sooner this is realised the better it will be for agriculture in general.

J. W. W.

## Fermentation in Manures.

**I**N our last article we considered nitrification as it occurs in the soil! In this we will consider it in connection with organic manures; especially those connected with the farm yard, glancing briefly at the different modes of preserving and applying these to the best advantage as far as preservation of nitrogen is concerned.

The question which has and still is agitating the farmers of this country more than any other problem on the farm is; at what season of the year and how is it best to apply farm yard manures so as to preserve to the crop the nitrogen which they contain? We will not attempt to dictate the proper time and mode of application, but simply give some of the methods generally followed with their advantages and disadvantages, so far as preservation and loss of nitrogen is concerned. Before doing this, let us review briefly fermentation in manures, and the conditions favorable to such a process.

The fermentation in manures, like that going on in soils, is the result of the growth of certain low forms of plant life, which act upon the organic material, breaking it up into various compounds. Of these the most important from the farmers standpoint are those directly connected with the changing of organic nitrogen into ammonia. The conditions favorable to such a change are similar to those which favor this process in soils; namely, heat, moisture, and air. When all of these conditions are present in a manure heap, the formation of ammonia from organic nitrogen goes on very rapidly, resulting often in a loss of a large part of this most valuable constituent.

With this in view let us look at the different modes of preserving and applying manures.

The one most generally followed by farmers in this Province, is that of keeping manure either in a heap in the barn yard or else in a shed or cellar, prepared specially for this purpose, until spring, when it is drawn out and plowed into the soil. This, no doubt, has many strong points in its favor; for in this manure, the time that it is applied to the field, fermentation is generally going on with great rapidity, which acts as a stimulus in increasing the fermentation of the organic matter of the soil, which is necessary to the formation of nitrates for the use of the young growing crop. It has also a tendency to warm the soil, which is of much importance at that season. Although these may be strong points in favor of such a method, yet there are other things which tend to counteract these; the most serious of which is the loss of nitrogen which escapes as ammonia during the process of fermentation which takes place in the heap. There is no doubt that much of this nitrogen is unnecessarily lost owing to carelessness in not trying to check fermentation or by neglecting to apply substances like Calcium Sulphate which act as fixers of ammonia. The most economical way of checking fermentation is by excluding air from the interior of the heap as far as possible. There are two classes of ferments which cause this decomposition of organic substances in manures, namely, Anaerobic and Aerobic. The first is active when air is excluded, and is not connected with a loss of nitrogen, producing such as marsh gas, butyric acid, &c. With an evolution of free hydrogen. Where air has free access to the interior of the heap the aerobic ferments act with great rapidity and often result in a loss of a large part of the nitrogen. To prevent this the manure should always be in such a position that it can easily be kept trapped so as to lessen at any rate the amount of air in the heap.

Horse manure is harder to control in this way, being of a much drier and more nitrogenous character, nitrification takes place with great rapidity, and there is an enormous loss of ammonia and free

nitrogen gas. This difficulty is often overcome by mixing it with cattle manure which being of a more compact and cooler nature, tends to check this rapid loss of nitrogen.

The composting of manure with peat or mould is very extensively practiced by some, especially by market gardeners, whose aim is to present the plant food in as available a form as possible. The chief advantages of this system are; It renders the organic nitrogen directly available, it reduces the bulk, and, on account of the addition of mould or peat, increases the quantity. When proper care is taken to have fermentation take place slowly, and sufficient quantity of laud plaster is present to hold any ammonia that may have escaped absorption by the mould or peat, no doubt this method will represent all the advantages that is claimed for it; but notwithstanding this a question still remains which the general farmer must answer; that is, will the more ready available plant food, the lessened bulk, and the slightly increased quantity of nitrates added by the mould or peat, more than compensate for risk of loss by fermentation, and the amount of labor and time expended in bringing about these conditions.

The method of drawing manure out in the winter and spreading it on the snow to be plowed under in the spring, is receiving considerable attention from the farmers at the present time. This in some cases besides being a great saving of time, has given excellent results especially where the surface is flat and the soil well drained. This no doubt where the conditions are favourable is one of the safest ways of applying manure to soil. I think we might say that the risk of loss, where the land is favorable, is reduced to a minimum; for it is impossible for fermentation to take place at such a temperature. The only way that loss might occur is by drying and washing. In regard to the first recent experiments have shown that a comparatively small amount of nitrogen is lost when the moisture is dried out by exposure to sun or wind. As far as washing is concerned, if the soil is well drained little will be lost. The only disadvantage of this method is the slowness with which fermentation takes place when plowed under, making it necessary in case of early crops where the best results would be attained, to apply some soluble nitrogenous fertilizer like guano, to supply the needs of the young growing crop until sufficient decomposition has taken place to render the organic nitrogen of the manure available.

Although we have not condemned any of the previous methods of applying manure, yet there is one which we see practiced during the early fall especially on soils intended for winter wheat, which we must condemn, that is, the practice of leaving manure in small heaps over the field until such a time as is convenient for spreading and plowing under. In this manure active fermentation is going on and when left in small loose heaps, decomposition takes place very rapidly, resulting in a great loss of nitrogen in a short time. It is better to spread it on the soil at once. By this means active fermentation and the temperature of the manure is reduced and the loss is comparatively small.

The depths to which manure should be buried depends to a large extent on the character of the soil. The fact that moisture and air are essential, that decomposition takes place, points to the conclusion, that it will be proper to bury manure deeper on light land than on heavy, in order to bring it within the reach of capillary moisture; but of course this will vary according to the climate and the relation of soil to ground water.

Although scientific men have devoted years to the study of this subject, conducting numerous and varied experiments, yet many difficult problems still remain unsolved. Comparatively nothing has been done towards finding out just what quantity of nitrogen is lost by fermentation when manure is kept under the best conditions in barn yard heaps. Why so few experiments have been conducted along this line is difficult to explain. It certainly is of the utmost importance because the solution of the whole problem comprising the proper application of farm yard manure seems to hinge directly upon the truths which accurate investigation must reveal.

A. A. K.

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

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## Literary Society.

One of the most successful open entertainments given by the Society was held on the evening of December 19th. The large gymnasium was filled to the doors by the members of the Experimental Union, students, ex-students, and friends from the city.

The programme for the most part consisted of a play, depicting about 24 hours of the regular life at the College, and for those who are not acquainted with the mode of living it is fair to say that everything was carried out in a life like manner on the stage, though some things were overdrawn intentionally to give a more ludicrous effect.

After an instrumental by the Misses Mills and a short introductory speech from the President of the Society, the first scene appeared. Being in the regular course of events, it depicted the manner of arousing the students to attend cattle in the morning. The morning gong was rung, which had the effect of arousing the suspicions of fire. Mr. Elford being the first up, then amazed the audience by arousing the rest of the sleepers. The breakfast bell was now rung and a rush of the students to the dining hall was the consequence. Mr. King, not being ready, asked Mr. Kipp to bring up his breakfast, and in the interval he gave a recitation entitled "Phoebe Hall." The Quartette Club then gave a song, "The Jolliest Boys Alive." The morning roll was next called and the "Speech from the Throne" delivered, in which it was mentioned that some malicious students had been scratching the desks in the live stock class room, etc., etc. The Professor leaves the room for a few minutes and the boys call on Mr.

Edelsten for a song, which he gets nearly completed before the Professor of Agriculture comes in, when he hurriedly takes his seat. A very amusing lecture on agriculture was then given, in which the foolishness of picking apples with a pick axe and of late ploughing (after 10 o'clock p.m.) was pointed out. The hour then being up, the Professor leaves the room, and Mr. King is called upon for a recitation. He gave various excuses, which were not accepted, and finally gives one entitled "A Bachelor's Experience in Setting a Hen." The next Professor comes in and gives a lecture on Zoology, draws attention to the fact that reptiles are not of much importance for roofing a house, and that bedbugs exist on tick. The bell rings, and it is announced that the next hour is to be devoted to study, as the Advisory Board is at the College. The Professor's exit is followed by a resolution that they will not study, but have some songs, recitations and speeches instead. Mr. Elford is elected to the chair and calls for a song from Mr. Rowe, entitled "Coster's Serenade." Mr. Patterson then gave a reading, "Pat's Adventure with a Christmas Goose." Mr. Edelsten gave a song followed by another from the Quartette Club, "We Meet Again, Boys," and for an encore gave "Evening Bells." The dinner bell is now heard and the boys repair to the dining room where customary course of events were illustrated, even to the love letters some of the students received being shown.

The third scene shows one half of the students studying while the other half work. The scene at the farm office was exceedingly natural, even to the excuses given to the Farm Superintendent in the hope of being excused from work. Some were sent to the dairy "to water the hens," some to attend the pigs and various other jobs which befall the ordinary student. The division studying are dismissed at four o'clock for drill under Capt. Clark (Kipp). The various exercises were gone through with, marching, counter marching, club drill, etc. In this part of the programme much amusement was caused by the manner in which Mr. King presented the dull student, especially during the club exercises, when instructed to show some of the other students how to go through some of the performances. The tea bell rings, and another scene in the dining-room is depicted. The mail is read out, and it is announced that there will be no study on account of the regular meeting of the Literary Society. Some of the boys are detected in carrying food from the dining-room. Much amusement was also caused by Mr. King's personation of the dilatory student in the dining-room.

Scene 4 represents the regular literary meeting, when the ordinary programme was given as follows:

Recitation, A. A. King, "Different Styles of Elocution."

Encore, song.

Instrumental, orchestra.

Temperance speech, W. J. Brown.

Song, Mr. Edelsten, "Marching," while members of the Battery in uniform kept time on the stage.

Recitation, by Mr. Elford.

Medley by Quartette Club, which ended the regular meeting, and the open meeting came to a close by a scene in the College halls at 11 p. m., when a familiar figure called "All lights out, gentlemen, please, eleven o'clock, all lights out."

All went away well pleased and satisfied with the progress of the Society, after having spent three good hours, during which time there was not a single break in the thread of enjoyment.

## Locals.

Are you the servant girl?

∴

May I come in to warm myself?

McPhail.

∴

My name is O'Brien (Knight).

∴

Rob.—I won't get my hair cut until the moon is in its first quarter.

Whit—O, rats! I lost all confidence in that theory long ago.

∴

P. B. S.—Why, Widdifield, you look sleepy.

Widdifield—I shouldn't wonder. King purrs out loud at night.

∴

King—"Tired natures sweet restorer."

Rob.—Oh, Yes! Ayer's Hair Vigor.

∴

P. B. S.—"O, who will smoke my Meerschaum Pipe."

Knight—Let Wiancho have it.

∴

## UNRESTRICTED RECIPROcity.

If you cross my "t's" I'll dot your "i's."

Dublin—All right, let's.

∴

McCallan—If a fat man and a German boy smoke a 35 cent can of "Student's Mixture" in one week, what will a month's tobacco come to?

Higginson—I dunno.

McC.—Smoke.

∴

Since coming to the College K. has won for himself the reputation of being the most diligent student in his year. Not long ago he received a photo with the note: "A Merry Christmas, from Clara." Mr. K. was delighted beyond measure. In the ecstasy of the moment he was transported to his far off Nova Scotian home and to that fire-side at which he was always a welcome visitor. He tenderly placed the precious card upon the bureau and with a "far away look in his eye" he resumed his books. But, alas! he could not read a paragraph. His eyes wandered from his book and to the bureau. Never before was pleasure and misery more completely blended. A happy thought struck him. He keeps the photo a dozen pages in advance of

his reading and declares that now he can get twice as much work as formerly.

∴

Ross (at dinner)—Of what city does that door remind you?

Edelsten—I give it up.

Ross—*Let's in.*

∴

We are indeed sorry to learn that Mr. Elford has been obliged to discontinue his course owing to the weakness of his eyes. Short as was his stay with us he has won for himself a host of friends who sympathize with him in his misfortune. While here he took an active interest in all the Societies in connection with the College which go to make student life a success. Through his departure the College loses a valuable student and the students a well tried friend.

∴

The Experimental Union was held within our College halls on Dec. 8th and 19th, and in most respects was an unqualified success. There was a good representation of ex-students and students, besides a number of farmers from the surrounding country.

Owing to the fact that the meetings were held during exam week, many of the students were compelled to forgo the privilege of listening comfortably to many of the ablest addresses.

As a connecting link between the ex-students and their Alma Mater it serves an excellent purpose, and it should be the earnest endeavor of every student and ex-student of the College to take every advantage of the opportunities presented for gaining useful knowledge in the various lines of agriculture.

Some of the most noted agriculturists of Ontario took part in the addresses and discussions; but the Union was made especially interesting by the addresses of Mr. T. B. Terry, of Ohio, U. S. Mr. Terry is one of the most scientific and most practical farmers of the U. S., and is much sought after by the various agricultural associations of his native country.

His addresses on his pet subjects, viz., Clover Growing, Potato Culture, and Wheat Growing, were listened to with marked attention and no doubt will have a beneficial effect in awakening Ontario farmers along these lines. His address, "The Wife's Share," delivered on the evening of the Experimental Supper elicited hearty rounds of applause from the assembled guests, and many a future wife of the O. A. C. students and ex-students will look back and thank Mr. Terry for informing their husbands to treat them as equal partners in life and not as serfs, as the great majority of farmers wives are treated at present.

The Union at present is in good financial standing, and is gradually growing in membership. Through the kindness and influence of the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, the Ontario Legislature has allowed the Union a substantial grant to better enable its officers to carry on the co-operative experimental work, and in the near future this organization bids fair to become one of the foremost agricultural societies of our fair Province.

Let it be the aim of every ex-student within the bounds of

Ontario, to be present at the meeting of 1895, and have some information to give regarding their experience along agricultural lines. In this way they will make the future meetings of the society a greater success than those of the past.

..

McPhail to Knight—Let us woo him.

..

I made a call last night but she wasn't in, "by ginger."—Rob.

..

Auxiliary Enquirer—Nurse, how is your patient, Mr. Clark, this morning?

Nurse—His throat is a little better but his mind still wanders. He talks of nothing but exams.

..

Student—D. Christie Murray's lecture was the best I have heard. Faust is on for next Monday.

Oh! indeed! I don't know him. Does he lecture along the same line?

Students hold their breath for a time, and meditate on the advantage of being brought up in a small island.

..

A new society has been formed in the "tower." It has for its object the entertainment of visitors of the sight-seeing class. Kidd has been appointed usher, while Campbell performs some daring feats with the rope.

..

At we are at present some distance from our sanctum in the tower of the O. A. C., and therefore unable to record the doings which have taken place within the walls of that noted institution for the past month, we ask our kind readers to bear with us if we picture some of the doings of the students and officers as seen in our imagination only.

Seated in our arm chair with our feet elevated, Yankee fashion, we close our eyes and, presto, we are entering the College halls.

After being warmly welcomed by our worthy President and other officers of the institution, who are not at present orating at the various Farmer's Institutes of our fair Province, the dinner bell, wielded vigorously by one of the fair damsels, peals forth its joyful sounds, dear to the heart of every hungry student.

In a moment or so we are seated at our accustomed tables and await the opening scene.

After the stern Resident Master has asked the blessing on the bountiful spread which is generally set in a residence College, we fall to our task by first sharpening our carving knives and setting our teeth.

We naturally gaze around the room, but to our dismay it is al-

most empty; only those from distant lands remain to grace the tables; the remainder are no doubt at home enjoying the family Christmas goose or their mother's New Year pudding. After our appetites, sharpened by travel, are satisfied with well-cooked tender beef, potatoes, bread, and water, we naturally look for something heavy to keep them down. Casting our eyes towards the kitchen we see through the partly opened door, the fair countenance of our worthy Matron, watching intently the effect of the preceding fare. While the mail is being read the female is in readiness with a delicious plum pudding which greatly exercises her muscles in carrying it to the table. Then the nursery rhyme, "Isn't this a dainty dish to set before the King," is sung, and after partaking of the delicacy, we rise with difficulty and with heavy tread wend our way through the College halls.

Knowing that friend King is always willing to receive and entertain company we wend our way to Number 26, where we receive a right royal welcome. Before him lies an open book of Shakespeare's works, while close at hand is Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and the *Empire's* account of Sir John Thompson's death. These our King reads carefully in close succession; for as a student he is a plugger, and in politics, a dyed-in-the-wool Conservative. As we take our departure he reluctantly drops his books and escorts us to the Managing Editor's sanctum. On entering we receive a Highland welcome and seat ourselves, when who rises and takes a sitting posture in the Editor's bed, but W. McCallum. He immediately urges on us the necessity of reading a certain article in to-day's *Globe*; it is exactly his sentiments; the Reform party are sure to win the next election, for the country is going to destruction under our present Government, and he finally ends his political oration by a hack at those terrible Patrons. As we have little time to spare we bid them adieu, and on peeking around the corner see at the end of Panton Flat the athletic form of Chrusey, blowing as in times past his musical coronet. We withdraw and sweet strains of "Marching Through Georgia" and "The Girl I Left Behind Me" resound through the empty halls. Leaving him alone in his glory, we hasten to the tower and interview Cass and McCallan. The latter studiously reading Shakespeare's *Richard II*, while the former is trying to fathom the depths of Political Economy. "Alas," we say, "much study is a weariness of the flesh."

We next visit the engine room and find Engineer Green and Fireman Boyle at their post. Lang, of course, devotes his entire attention to talking to the former while the writer interviews Jim. They describe life at the College during the holiday season as monotonous in the extreme and wish for the speedy return of the students in full force.

Returning from the engine room we meet our worthy janitor in his new overcoat. He salutes us in true military style and with his usual "Good Land, are you back!" he proceeds to relate some interesting anecdote in his experience. Ending his conversation with one of his usual jokes he vanishes.

We then open our eyes, lower our extremities, and awake to find our visit but a dream.

## Personal

W. R. Graham, B. S. A., '94, informs us that he is on a visit to "Uncle Sam," endeavoring to obtain a few pointers on the management of a large poultry farm." He is evidently in the right spot to acquire knowledge for in '93 ten thousand (10,000) ducks were reared and sent to the New York markets; on the same farm during 1894 there were fifteen hundred (1,500) breeding ducks. Mr. Rankin is the moving spirit of this prodigious poultry farm and operates thirteen Monarch Incubators. All the hatching is done artificially and with great success.

—o—

R. A. Thompson, '91, of Thornton, is a prosperous farmer. Still the jolly, energetic R. A. He takes a lively interest in all social affairs, Farmer's Institutes and the like, and is much interested in stock raising. Some time ago he built a silo, a model for neatness of construction, and has quite satisfied himself and many others as to the great value of ensilage as a food. Since leaving the O. A. C. he has been much engaged in renovating farm buildings and has found the instruction given by Mr. McIntosh of great practical value. There is on his farm at the present time a cosy brick house nearing completion. This — but we will refrain.

—o—

Let the happy import of the following personal partially excuse the abrupt termination of the last. In November of last year Miss M. A. Harvey, daughter of William Harvey, of Hamilton, was wedded to Mr. A. D. Harkness, of Iroquois, who secured his diploma here in '87. We congratulate Mr. Harkness on the happy event. But why is it that the parties concerned in these pleasant episodes never inform us of the same? Had not the eagle eye of our editor descried the form of an artful little Cupid in the Hamilton *Herald*, numerous former student friends of the blithe bridegroom might still be unaware of his blissful state.

—o—

Walter J. Brown, B. S. A., '94, since leaving College has been enjoying the practical side of agriculture, yet devotes some time to scientific studies. He is still an ardent lover of football, and this season played half-back for the "Cswell-Pick," the Senior League champions of the Western Association for the Autumn of 1894. Mr. Brown, taking an active interest in church work. During the past year he was the Exchange Editor of the O. A. C. REVIEW.

—o—

L. W. Eaton, '93, after spending a year in practical dairy work has received an appointment on the staff of our popular Dairy Commissioner, and is now working in the Province of Quebec.

—o—

G. T. Marsh, B. S. A., '92, has resigned his post on the editorial staff of the *Farmers' Advocate*, intending to go extensively into dairying. The O. A. C. Special Dairy Course will engage his attention this winter. Mr. Marsh has been spending a few weeks at the Bow Park Farm, Brantford; where, he informs us, Messrs. Shuttle-

wort, and Harris have established a large dairy herd and built one of the finest dairy buildings in Canada.

—o—

Andrew S. Wilken has been busily engaged buying cattle in Great Britain and Ireland. It is possible that he may visit Australia in connection with the frozen sheep trade. A. S. W. desires to be remembered to his O. A. C. friends.

—o—

D. Buchanan, B. S. A., '91, has given up the Assistant Editorship of the *Canadian Live Stock Journal*, and is taking a course at Knox College, Toronto.

—o—

J. H. Burns, who obtained his diploma here, is now at home in St. Marys studying with a view to completing his third year. He writes that though the farmers in the district are complaining of "bad times" they are constantly improving their farms, planting hedge fences, erecting and renovating buildings, etc. The significance of such a statement needs no comment.

—o—

James More, who owing to ill health left last Christmas without completing his first year, is, we are glad to know, regaining strength. He now works on his father's farm near Kirkton, Perth Co.

—o—

We do not often hear of students from the Ontario Agricultural College becoming famous artists, but Hugh Kirk, of Kirkton, has been actively engaged in house painting. The inherent artistic talent of his nature is shown by his melodious voice being often heard in oratorical display. Our correspondent facetiously remarks by quotation that Mr. Hugh Kirk is one of those who

"In words of learned length and thundering sound  
Amaze the gazing rustics ranged around."

—o—

Mr. Calvert, '86, who was a member of the first post graduate class at the O. A. C. and graduated at McGill with honours in '80, is still studying at Harvard University. He finished his work for the degree Ph. D., and is now one of the assistants at that famous American University.

—o—

Mr. A. Lehmann, B. S. A., '89, has lately resigned his position of Chemist at the Experimental Station in New Orleans to study Organic Chemistry at one of the German Universities.

—o—

H. A. Morgan, B. S. A., '89, Professor of Entomology at the State University of Louisiana is now also Professor of Zoology. We are informed that he has worked hard in his particular line of study, and battled against adverse circumstances, but he has been rewarded by now having a well equipped and a reputation equal to that of any other entomologist in the Southern States.

—o—

H. S. Halcroft, '84, has sold his ranch in the North-West and gone into business at Orillia.



## Exchanges and Thoughts from the College World.

"Every mistake is a help to knowledge."

—o—

"Books are embalmed minds."—*Bovee*.

—o—

"Sermons in stones and good in everything."

—o—

"Hope may be said to be the future tense of faith."

—o—

"Gold that buys health can never be ill spent,  
Nor hours laid out in harmless merriment."

—o—

"A growing mind must never be afraid of an open question."

—o—

"You, with the help of the spirit of God, are your own kingdom."

—o—

The Chinese orderly called the roll—  
The tourist delighted fell;  
For he felt in the depths of his Yankee soul  
'Twas his old-time college yell.—*Ex.*

—o—

"The more you love yourself, the less you will be loved by others."

—o—

"Conscience is no guide, it simply indorses an individual's highest knowledge."

—o—

"No book can be so good as to be profitable when negligently read."—*Seneca*.

—o—

This verse is just a little guy  
To show how foolish girls will be;  
To show that isn't meant for them  
A thing that just the thing they're sure to see.—*Ex.*

—o—

"He that never has been in doubt about anything has never attained anything."

—o—

SEASONABLY.

"A stratum of solid slippery ice;  
A stratum of slush so soft and nice;  
A stratum of water; over that  
A stratum of man in the new silk hat;  
Above the startled air is blue  
With oath on oath a stratum or two.—*Ex.*

—o—

One-third of the university students of Europe die prematurely

from the effects of bad habits acquired in school; one-third die from lack of exercise, and the other third govern Europe.—*Ex.*

—o—

SIGNS OF AN EARLY SPRING.

HE.—Roses red and violets blue,  
Sugar's sweet and so are you.  
SHE.—The grass is green, the sky is blue,  
The air is fresh and so are you.

—o—

"There are many very valuable truths which do not benefit many people simply because they do not grasp them."

—o—

Oxford University, the largest in the world, embraces twenty-one Colleges and five Halls. It has an income of \$6,000,000 and has 12,000 students.

—o—

AS THE GIRLS SEE IT.

I took the gentle Anabel  
To see a football game,  
And thus unto a friend of hers  
Did she describe the same:  
"Oh, May, you should have seen them play;  
'Twas such a lovely sight!  
And though the first game I had seen  
I understood it quite.  
"First came the Yales, all dressed in blue,  
Then Harvard came in red.  
One fellow, the rest all tried  
To jump upon his head.  
And then one fellow stopped and stooped  
And all the rest got round;  
And every fellow stopped and stooped  
And looked hard at the ground.  
"And then the other fellow yelled,  
And each man where he stood  
Just hit and struck and knocked and kicked,  
At every one he could.  
"And then one fell upon his neck  
And all the others ran,  
And on his prone and prostrate form  
Leaped every blessed man.  
"And then the ambulance drove on,  
And, loaded up with men  
With twisted necks and broken lungs,  
Went driving off again.  
"Oh, football's just the cutest game!  
It cannot be surpassed,  
But yet it really is a shame  
To use men up so fast."—*Ex.*

J. F. C.