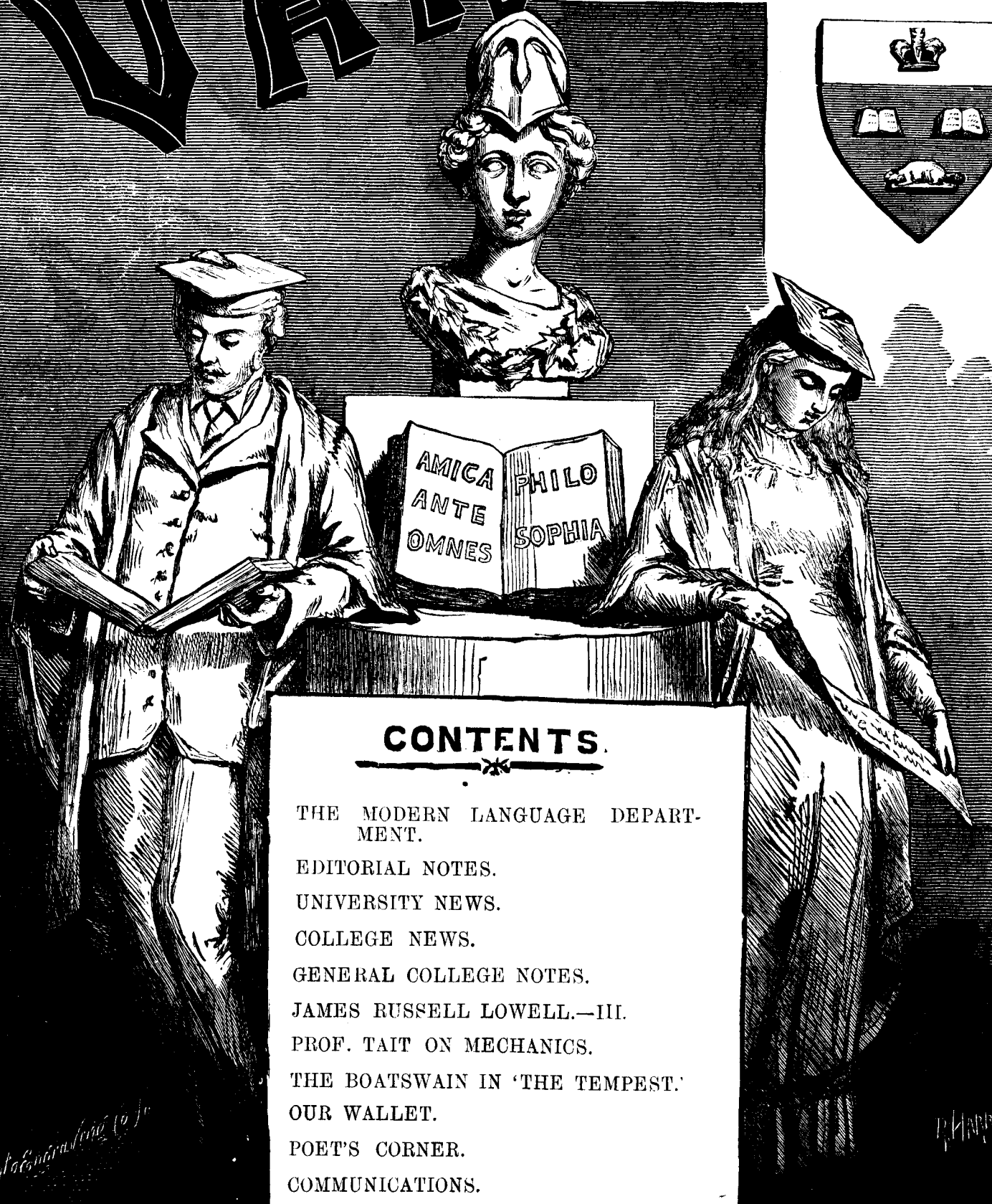


THE UNIVERSITY



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University of Toronto, March 8, 1884.

Poet's Corner.

NIGHT ON THE PLAINS.

The dying day is bathed in sunset smiles;
Bright jewelled night, fast follows in her train
With floods of light, illuming far the plains,
That fade where eye no farther can discern.
The heavens high to dewy earth low bend,
The silver sun and all the starry host
Soft whispers breathe upon the evening wind;
While flowers wild, and all the living green,
With gems are decked, as diamonds of the sky.

Infinite light her rosy chariot wheels,
And from afar out throws her golden beams.
But when the full-orbed queen her beauty hides,
Or glancing from her throne, soon seeks the west,
Electric showers, the plains of heaven o'er spread
In clouds of mellow light, that ever changing
From the earth do spring, and hastening, roll
In endless rounds, concentrating in the dome.
Or shooting forth long training bands of fire,
Like falling stars a trackless pathway leave,
As veil on lovely maiden's brow, but dims
The lustre of her eyes, so through the running
Rays aglow, the eyes of night peep out,
All glistening as with tears bedewed.

How beautiful is night! glad visaged night,
That writes in smiles the angels' thoughts,
Or woos the weary wanderer to rest.
In radiant streams our fancy bathes her wings,
And flies beyond the reach of mortal sight:
There seeks the shadows that we see, to find
Both whence they come, and whither waning go.
Now has the blush of rainbow light grown dim,
And night in softest slumber, silence holds.

—ROLAND.

Communications.

OUR DINNER HOUR.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—In this age of ruthless iconoclasm and pitiless progress in matters civil, religious and secular, there is one subject which, as far as I know, has escaped observation. To this I would respectfully ask your attention for a few moments. It is a matter upon which I would like to hear some expression of undergraduate opinion. Is there then, I would ask, or has there ever been, any undergraduate, to whom our two o'clock dinner hour has not been a source of considerable annoyance and vexation? Students, who prior to their entering the halls of University College have been accustomed to taking dinner regularly at twelve o'clock, are now compelled to torture themselves till two, or snatch their meals as best they can before that time. Now the physical injury consequent on such irregularity is apparent to all, and not least to those who, perforce, are the victims of it. Again it is a serious drawback to study. To be a good student one of the first requisites is method. Under the present system this is sadly disregarded, entailing a corresponding loss of valuable time and energy.

One day a student dines at one, the next at twelve, a third at two; and what wonder is it that lectures at the last-named hour are frequently waived in favor of the promptings of the inner man? But it may be asked, 'Why not dine every day at two?'

Well, there are several reasons. Nine out of every ten of us, I presume, have from our infancy upwards been accustomed to taking our dinner at noon. Tradesmen, artisans, merchants, business and professional men, almost without exception, follow this custom. During our course at the public and high schools we followed the same division of time, and, what is more, formed our habits and hours of study thereby.

But when we come up to University College, the copestone, forsooth, of our noble educational system, we are suddenly compelled to give up this senseless regularity, or take the pleasing alternative of mortifying the flesh by a prolonged daily fast. Now, outside of Residence, some few make two their regular dinner hour, but the vast majority do not. And it may be here remarked, in this majority are included the great bulk of all undergraduates. By us unfortunate dissenters, then, a cold dinner has to be thankfully received, and too often swallowed 'miserabile dictu,' with the accompanying sauce of an eloquent little lecture on the irregularities and delinquencies of students in general. Nor is it any wonder, Mr. Editor, that house-keepers thus complain, for it is no small inconvenience to them, to have their different student boarders dropping in from twelve to two.

But to return, there might be some semblance of excuse for having our mid-day at two o'clock, if lectures were concluded each day at that hour.

But such is not the case. Lectures continue every day up till five o'clock. Now, it may be argued, why not breakfast later, and thus avoid the pangs of hunger that a two o'clock dinner otherwise curtails? Well, to breakfast late means to many to rise late, and without entering into a discussion as to the merits of late or early rising with regard to students, I would simply repeat what has been said before, that our habits, on that point, have been formed before coming here, and we are not likely to change them for the four years we are here. Again, since University College is the 'topmost rung of our educational ladder,' if two o'clock, the appointed dinner hour there, be found to be beneficial, it ought to be introduced into the lower rungs as well or else discarded altogether.

To my mind there is no valid reason whatever for maintaining such an anomalous state of things. The two o'clock dinner hour is simply a stumbling-block, and undergraduates ought to make some combined effort to rid themselves of this onerous relic of effete tradition.

With many thanks for space, I remain,

Yours truly, S. J. S.

University College, March 5th, 1884.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—In speaking of some vandalism, as you call it, I see you refer to the position of the offender. Is that the cause of the offence? If not, your correspondent must have a very small mind to connect his position with the misdemeanour. I have nothing to say in regard to the offence, only that it would be much better if the injured ones had the moral courage to reprimand the offender, instead of putting it in the 'Varsity. Surely you must remember, of greater offences committed by some who do not hold menial positions, but who pursue intellectual studies. I hope you do not connect their depredations with their intellectual position. Kindly insert in the 'Varsity and oblige,

Yours, &c.,

B.

To the Editor of the 'Varsity.

DEAR SIR,—I desire to call your attention to a rather strange occurrence which I noticed a few days ago. While standing in the vestibule of the College, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, I noticed a couple of lady visitors approach the janitor and respectfully ask permission to see the building. To my astonishment and regret they were turned away with an observation that the building would be open at 2 o'clock. The janitor no doubt only obeyed his instructions, but it seems to me his position under the circumstances was no enviable one, and I would respectfully submit to the President the propriety of allowing him to admit visitors during the ordinary College hour. By strangers, who for the most part are only in the city for a day, the forenoon would obviously be chosen for visiting places of public interest, of which the University is by far the most attractive.

To say nothing of the disappointment incurred after coming no inconsiderable distance from the main part of the city, I will simply observe that it is small comfort to be told that visitors will be admitted at the hour you contemplate leaving the city. By taking some action in this matter the President would, I am sure, not inconvenience either himself or his assistants, and would confer an appreciable boon on the public.

J. W. R.

To the Editor of the 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—It gives me much pleasure to read your article in the last number of the 'VARSITY, urging the Undergraduates to rally to the support of our Cricket Club. It is quite a revolution, from the old state of affairs, to hear anything about Cricket at this early day—but your article has awakened an interest, and I sincerely hope good results may come. Now, in the working of the Club in former years, it always seemed to me that we were too late in making a start. I would suggest early organization, and that greater efforts be put forth to work up the enthusiasm. Also let the College Council be approached on the state of the lawn, and have a portion in the centre more carefully looked after and put in a condition suitable for a crease—for all Cricketers know pretty well what a bumpy wicket means. Now pardon me for using your space, but I have one more idea—it looks now as if a yearly contest, between McGill College and our University were to be an established fact—why not have an annual Inter-University Cricket match? I would venture to say that two or three men could be found at McGill College who could hold a bat and then we could educate them up to it. A well wisher and ONE OF THE ENTHUSIASTS.

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THE 'VARSITY:

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF

EDUCATION UNIVERSITY POLITICS AND EVENTS.

Vol. IV. No. 20.

Mar. 8, 1884.

Price 10 cents.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT.

We had occasion some time ago to refer to the position of inferiority which the Modern Language Department undeservedly holds in University College. We asserted that it should be on an equal footing with the other departments and stand in no ambiguous relation in comparison with them; that it should have its professor and its representative on the College Council. To-day we speak more plainly. Modern Languages as they are taught in University College are a failure in all that concerns true University education.

Those who believe in the inherent unfitness of these languages as a means of culture are rapidly fossilizing. We hold that they afford opportunity not only for high scientific training, but also should give a familiarity with modern thought that no other course can supply. Yet this Department has ever presented a sorry spectacle. In no other, perhaps, has the teaching been so wretched, and, consequently, the lectures have been attended by a most plentiful lack of students. We wish it to be understood that our remarks in this respect do not apply to the recently-appointed lecturers, who, we have every reason to believe, are doing earnest and conscientious work.

The study of languages should have a two-fold object. *First*, the acquirement of the faculty of scientific procedure, and *second*, the assimilation of the finest thoughts of different nations. Philology affords opportunity for the one and literature for the other. The former is entirely neglected, and of the latter, except perhaps English, we hear nothing. Even in English the lectures seem to be consecrated chiefly by age. In our teaching of foreign languages it is questionable whether there has been any higher aim than that of giving ability to speak, and the existence of the Modern Language Club shows how inefficient that teaching has been. Those of us who have acquired a knowledge of Modern Languages owe little of it to anything that has been done by University College. Lectures on foreign classics are devoted to the explanation of grammatical difficulties, and literature, the grandest field for the exercise of a professor's ability, is left untouched. Perhaps just as unfortunate is the neglect with which Anglo-Saxon, the basis of our native tongue, is treated.

The present connection between the Languages and History and Ethnology can scarcely be accounted for. That the latter are more closely related to the former than to, for example, Natural Sciences, we do not believe. That Modern Languages need the support of History in order to rank as a fit graduating department, no one who knows anything of the matter for a moment holds. The establishment of the new department of History and Law will remove a foreign element, and make possible the restoration of Spanish and the extension of the Italian course.

We would like to see a thorough re-organization of the curriculum—a sweeping away of books that stand as monuments of the stupidity and ignorance of those who secured their adoption, and the requirement of more thoroughness in the knowledge of literature and the science of language. For the final year in English and French, it would not be too much to abolish specified literary works and demand a literary knowledge of the chief productions of the two nations. It is rank folly to give such works as Craik and Demogeot, fictitious importance as affording any knowledge of literature, which

alone can be gained by intercourse with the authors themselves.

Much of the evil may be remedied by the appointment of an energetic and well-trained professor. When such a one comes he will fill a long-felt want. But it is not only the Romance Languages that need attending to. The German sub-department is languishing into death. It petrifies. The language in which Goethe wrote what is worth all the Latin literature that ever existed, the language of the acknowledged centre of intellectual life, is consigned to an obscure corner of the College and taught for the most part to some lone inhabitant of 'beggarly rows of empty benches.' Is it too much to demand earnest and learned lectures on a language of such vast importance?

Let us not forget the fact that the claims of professors to consideration depend only on their doing their work well, that they are only doing their work well when they are helping intellectual advancement in their students.

We believe radical changes are necessary in the Modern Language Department and that these changes should take place in the immediate future. Unless something is done, there will be a Rip Van Winkle awakening to find that the world has marched on, and that we are only the antiquated relics of a system of education looked upon with laughter and contempt.

We ask for the opinion of our readers on the matter.

Editorial Notes.

The meeting of the University College Literary Society last night was the best attended and most enthusiastic ordinary meeting that has been held for years. Apart from the election of prize speakers and leaders, the question of disfranchisement of life-members who do not attend a certain number of meetings during the year, was taken sufficient interest in, to bring out large numbers of graduates and undergraduates for its consideration. A satisfactory solution of that question was arrived at by an acknowledgement of the right and privilege of graduates to vote for the office of President without any limiting condition, but imposing the necessity of attendance at four meetings as a condition as well for graduates as undergraduates, for the privilege of voting for the lower offices. The right to vote for the office of the presidency is one of which graduates should not be deprived, and it is all that, as a matter of right, they can reasonably claim.

We are pleased to note that the editorial on cricket in the last number of the 'Varsity has already awakened some interest among players. We commend the remarks of our correspondent to University cricketers, and hope that enthusiasm will not die away before the snow leaves the ground. The principal reason of our ill-success at the game has been, as is stated, the lateness of the time at which cricket is begun. If the club could be organized before the close of this term, it could probably be held together during the summer and many more matches played and a better record made. Let the club take the matter up in good time.

The Rugby Union Football Club has taken time by the forelock in the matter of the Intercollegiate games. At a recent meeting it was decided to favour the project in every way, and to endeavour to fix the annual match on a day that would be suitable likewise for the sports.

The double event ought to be of much interest either in Toronto or Montreal, and certainly large numbers of undergraduates would take the opportunity of visiting the sister University, either as competitors or spectators. Our athletes would have some worthy object to train for, and their ambitions might rise higher than the Residence cake, if this meeting were established.

The scheme is, in fact, just the one to infuse the necessary energy into an almost effete college institution, and we trust that it will be advanced with vigor.

'S. J. S.' elsewhere advocates very strongly a change in the College dinner-hour. For this he gives reasons which certainly are cogent as regards himself, but which are, we believe, without weight for the majority of the students. A late dinner is the inevitable consequent on a late breakfast, which in turn follows naturally from late working hours. It is during the quiet, undisturbed hours that lie on either side of midnight that nearly every student does his really hardest work, and the poor fellow is not to be blamed if his nose does not emerge from the bed-clothes till nine or even nine-thirty in the morning. This is the *ratio* of the present order of things, and a necessary preliminary step towards changing the dinner-hour will be a careful supervision of the undergraduate in the matter of extinguishing his candle. Further, all know the advantage of having a clear, uninterrupted stretch of work in the morning, and we believe that anything which would tend to shorten that ten-to-two session could not be of benefit to the majority.

The complaint laid by 'J. W. R.' with regard to the opening of the University buildings to visitors is a reasonable one. It seems absurd, not to say most inconvenient, that our buildings, the most attractive and interesting buildings in the city, should be closed to the public at the time generally taken by visitors for sight-seeing. We are sure that the inconvenience caused to the College in any way can be very slight compared with that caused the general public.

University News.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

An open meeting of the Society was held last night, the President in the chair. Mr. A. MacMechan read an essay on Heine.

G. F. Cane then moved the motion asking the College Council to defer judgment on the amendment to the constitution prohibiting graduates from voting in the elections unless they attend four meetings. Mr. Cane urged his motion on the grounds that it would be an injustice to the graduates not to be allowed to vote for President.

R. J. Leslie seconded the motion, and echoed Mr. Cane's remarks.

The Secretary then read a communication from the College Council. In compliance with a request, signed by several graduates, the Council had deferred giving judgment on the second amendment to the constitution, in order to allow the Society an opportunity to reconsider their amendment.

G. W. Holmes then asked that Mr. Cane withdraw his motion, so that Mr. Robinette could move an amendment to Mr. Macdonell's motion.

The President ruled that Mr. Macdonell's motion should come before Mr. Cane's.

A. M. Macdonell then spoke in favour of his notice of motion, striking out the clause requiring the attendance of any one at four meetings in order to vote.

Mr. R. J. Duff seconded it.

Mr. Robinette then moved, in amendment, that graduates be allowed to vote for the president but not for lower offices.

Mr. W. F. W. Creelman, B.A., seconded it, from a graduate standpoint.

Messrs. G. W. Holmes, A. G. F. Lawrence, B.A., J. McDougall, B.A., H. B. Witton, J. G. Holmes, G. F. Cane, J. McKay, B. A., and T. G. Campbell, B.A., also spoke on the question.

The amendment was then put and carried unanimously.

A long discussion then took place as to whether this amendment should come in force this year, and it was finally decided that if the College Council assented to it before the general elections it should come in force then.

Mr. Passmore then spoke in favor of his motion that \$50 be given to the Glee Club from the funds of this Society. He urged that the Glee Club was not a rich club and that the Glee Club had always aided the Society in all public meetings, &c.

Mr. W. A. Frost seconded the motion.

The motion was carried by a large majority.

The House Committee then presented their annual report, and advocated that the following papers, etc., among others, be taken for the Reading Room next year: The London illustrated papers, *Truth*, *Judge*, *Canadian Sportsman*, the current magazines, *War Cry* (which brought forward 'Roll the Old Chariot Along' from the *faithful*), *Mail*, *Globe*, etc.

The election for prize readers and speakers then took place, and resulted in Mr. Leslie obtaining first and Mr. L. P. Duff the second prize for public speaking, and Mr. MacMechan, by acclamation, the first prize for reading.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

A Shakespeare meeting was held on Tuesday evening last, when the play of 'Macbeth' was taken up. Mr. Kent read an essay on the characters of *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth*, which was followed by a rendition of the gravedigger's scene from 'Hamlet' by Messrs. MacMechan, Needler, Elliott, and Fere. Mr. Kelly then gave a paper on the supernatural in 'Macbeth,' which smacked of commentators' opinions, and Mr. W. H. Smith recited the well-known speech of *Macbeth's* beginning 'Is this a dagger,' etc. Mr. Hardie dealt with the sources, plot, and development of the play, after which Messrs. Robinette and Hamilton rendered as a dialogue a selection from Act v. Sc. viii. Prof. Nobiliez, who was present, upon being requested to favor the society with a recitation, rendered 'The Spy' in a very pleasing style. It has been decided to hold only two more meetings this term, at the next of which nominations of officers for next year will be made.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

This Society held an interesting and largely-attended meeting on Tuesday evening, the President in the chair. The paper read by Dr. Pike contributed to make the meeting an exceedingly profitable one.

The subject of the paper was 'The advancement of science.' The doctor took as 'land-marks' the advancement that has been made in regard to ideas concerning the nature of heat, motion, electricity and magnetism, illustrating the intimate relation which exists between them, by giving the results of several experiments which have been performed by different methods, but all giving like results. Another improvement was the use of a system of three units, by which all forms of force might be expressed. Mr. McKenzie, B.A., explained the nature of the head-kidney in fishes, showing from a developmental point of view that it is the precursor of the permanent kidney.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society of Toronto University was held on Tuesday evening at the University. Prof. Young and W. J. Loudon, B.A., were elected honorary members of the Society.

Owing to illness, Prof. Young was unable to attend the meeting to read his paper on 'Imaginary Quantities.' Mr. Haight read an excellent paper on problems. The examples were well chosen, and the solutions clear and concise.

W. J. Loudon, B.A., delivered an interesting lecture on the 'Radiometer,' giving a number of physical experiments in illustration.

J. W. Reid, B.A., gave a neat solution of a mathematical problem.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

There was a fair attendance at the regular meeting of the Association on Wednesday to hear the Rev. Mr. Johnson deliver his address. After the usual opening services the President introduced Mr. Johnson to the meeting. In coming forward the rev. gentleman expressed his sympathy with students engaged in such a work as this, and made some remarks on the benefit of prayer—how it clarifies the soul by communion with God. Culture, he held, without Christianity was a club in the hands of a Hercules; our ideal should be a Christian manhood as perfect and grand as the cathedral of Milan is as a pile of architecture. Everyone was called to work; and the conditions of success in Christian work were first a converted life; our belief being a supernatural one we must live a supernatural life to show the truth of it. Next, we must be Bible men, students of the Word; only by that can we grow and be strong; it cannot be superseded, all infidel attacks upon it have failed entirely. Another requisite was to be students of human nature. The soul is an organ, and we as skilful musicians are to learn how to touch the keys aright. The power of an educated mind must not be under-estimated. Men are seeking it everywhere for power. They are receiving education themselves, and require it in those who assume to themselves the functions of a teacher. He quoted here Professor Goldwin Smith as saying that materialistic science had receded from its every position. The world was never so ready as at present to hear of Christ; its great heart was panting for Him. The thing imperatively required then to bring men to Christ is strong conviction, not theory, not dogma, but life. The last point was the power of the Holy Ghost; our great want is lack of holiness. The Spirit will be given to us as it was at Pentecost. We have a right to expect it, and this it is that gives Christ's servants fire, earnestness, spirituality, success. Mr. Johnson then closed the meeting with prayer. A little more promptness on the part of the members in arriving is desirable, so that all the meeting may close as this one did, sharp on time.

The members who accepted Mr. Gzowski's invitation to a Bible reading in his house spent most profitably part of Thursday evening. A number of Y. M. C. A. workers, whose experience in the work has been wide, were there to tell of the strength to be found in the Word, of God's use of their services, of difficulties which they had overcome; and those who listened were stimulated and strengthened. In social intercourse after the Bible reading was concluded, questions of personal interest were discussed and several students received much help in that way.

QUICQUID AGUNT.

Mr. Johnston, Fellow, took Prof. Young's second and third year lectures during his illness.

There was no steam in the building on Tuesday morning. A mishap in one of the boilers was the cause of the disaster.

It is rather strange that in such a building as the University there should be no such thing as a lavatory or dressing-room.

The Glee Club are considering the advisability of giving a concert at Brampton on their return from Galt and Guelph.

The Literary Society elections take place on the 28th, and the corridors will soon be filled with aspiring disputants for party fame.

Three of the professors—the President and Professors Young and Loudon—were unable to lecture Wednesday through indisposition.

Blank forms of application for the medical exams. are out and may be had from the janitor. They are sad reminders of others about to come.

The annual meeting of the Association Football for the election of officers and transaction of business will be held next Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock.

An enquiring freshman who attended the debate at the House on co-education wants to know if Senior Wrangler means the head of the family? and if it is possible for women to become better linguists?

It has been discovered that a couple of students have been getting through their examinations at Yale by hiring substitutes. We hardly think such a thing will occur here while our present bedel holds office.

At the opening of the Free Public Library on the occasion of the city's semi-centennial on Thursday, President Wilson de-

livered the opening address, and Mr. Alex. Henderson, of the fourth year, read the ode written in commemoration of the event.

We regret to learn of the death on the first of March of Mr. A. Scatcherd, who was attending Upper Canada College. Mr. Page, his room-mate, was also taken ill with typhoid fever from the sad event, and had to be taken to his home in Brockville by his brother, Mr. J. A. Page, of the Residence.

Professor Young resumed lectures Thursday morning, having through ill health been forbidden by his medical adviser from lecturing for the past few days. The self-denying efforts of our popular professor in lecturing when it was evident that he had not yet sufficiently recovered, are thoroughly appreciated by his students.

At a meeting of the Rugby Union football committee on Thursday it was decided to challenge McGill for the intercollegiate game next year, the date to be fixed upon by the two clubs and the Sports Committees. A challenge was read from the London Club for next year, which was accepted on condition that they would also play a return match here.

One day during last week, Dr. Carscadden, M.P.P., paid the University a visit. After a thorough inspection of Convocation Hall, the Residence, and other points of interest in the building, the Doctor expressed himself thoroughly convinced of the necessity of a further endowment to meet the demands of increasing attendance at lectures.

The last public meeting of the Literary Society for the year will be held next Friday night. The Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, will occupy the chair. The reader is Mr. W. A. Frost, and essayist Mr. W. P. McKenzie. The subject of debate will be Co-education, the speakers being Messrs. J. McGillivray, J. W. Roswell, R. Ross and G. A. B. Aylesworth. We predict a large meeting.

The discussion on the motion favouring co-education took place Wednesday afternoon at the Legislature, the motion being carried without a division. It was introduced by Mr. J. M. Gibson, M.A., and seconded by Mr. Harcourt, M.A., the Minister of Education, besides others, speaking on the question. The galleries were well filled with University students, and in the ladies' gallery we noticed several of the fair sex who are interested in the debate. In his speech Mr. Gibson quoted a long extract from the 'VARSITY.

ROTTEN ROW.

Mr. R. E. Brown will act as advance agent for the Glee Club at Guelph.

Residence has now forty-two inmates, J. A. Stewart, of the freshman year, having recently come in.

Two residents enjoyed the luxury of a sleigh ride one day last week. Their cash ran out, we believe, somewhere out of town, and they were compelled to run a toll-gate in order to get home.

College News.

TRINITY MEDICAL SCHOOL.

In our last report, we expressed the hope that a large audience would greet those gentlemen who were to take part in the programme of the Literary and Scientific Society's meeting, Saturday evening, but as things have turned out we need not have had any tears for a small attendance; even the most hopeful could not have anticipated as large and appreciative an audience as assembled to enjoy a lengthy and attractive programme. The large lecture room was crowded to its *very ceiling*, many having to stand, and we were pleased to note the number of ladies present. Dr. Graham, President of the Toronto Medical School Literary Society, occupied a seat on the platform, and, during the evening, congratulated us on our success. He complimented Dr. Sheard, who, he said, always took an interest in anything pertaining to the interests of students. He (Dr. Sheard) had endeavoured to bring about a grand meeting of the two medical school societies, but owing to the fear that no building could be found large enough, it had to be postponed this year; however he hoped to see it accomplished next year. We must now briefly notice the programme. As usual the students sang their song, 'Old Trinity,' with great heartiness and effect.

To attempt to criticise Dr. Sheard's valedictory is impossible, because it was excellent and eloquent 'all through,' however, we will say that it was humorous in parts, earnest in others, encouraging the students to keep up a society which is doing all so much good.

The songs by Messrs. Gordon, Brown, and Carruthers were well rendered, and all received *encores*, which were happily responded to. The instrumental music, supplied by Messrs. Woody, Hall, Veitch and Brown, was very much appreciated and was also *encored*.

Readings were given by Messrs. Bell, Edmison, and Cale, being in each instance of the humorous character; these were excellently rendered and afforded much amusement to those present, who again called for *encores*.

Dr. McFarlane, being called upon, made a few remarks, and complimented the students on possessing so much talent.

The meeting concluded at a late hour.

General College Notes.

The Persian language has been added to the curriculum at Cornell.

President Porter, of Yale, is preparing a book on the *Ethics* of Kant.—*Ex.*

The Princeton Faculty now numbers thirty professors besides a corps of tutors, instructors and lecturers.

The Michigan *Argonaut* will henceforth devote part of its editorial columns to subjects outside the range of College news.

The freshman class of Cornell University has representatives from Russia, Spain, Brazil, Central America, Germany, Austria and Canada.—*Ex.*

Prof. Sylvester, of John Hopkins University, has accepted the chair as Savilian Professor of Geometry, at the University of Oxford, Eng.—*Ex.*

At a recent Harvard debate, on the subject, '*Resolved*, that Wendell Phillips's course in regard to slavery was that of a true statesman,' the negative won by 38 to 25.—*Ex.*

McGill has appointed a committee to compile a new song book. It is meeting with great encouragement in its labours, as several hundreds of dollars have already been guaranteed for the purpose.

Queen's University will be represented by its Chancellor, Mr. Sandford Fleming, C. E., C. M. S., and Harvard by James Russel Lowell, at the Tercentenary celebration of the University of Edinburgh, in Easter week.

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.—*University Gazette.*

At the last annual commencement of the University of Tokio, Japan, which was held October 27, 1883, there were 67 graduates, representing the departments of law, civil engineering, chemistry, physics, medicine, literature and pharmacy.—*Ex.*

Yale College, which was about a year ago the recipient of \$50,000 from A. E. Kent, of San Francisco, has received \$25,000 more from the same person. The whole amount is to be used in the erection of a chemical laboratory for the Academical Department.—*Ex.*

A meeting held at McGill on Saturday, 23rd February, to discuss the advisability of organizing a University Club, 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, etc. It has not yet been decided whether undergraduates will be admitted to the advantages of the Club or no.

Dr. Charles Walderstein, a member of the the junior year of the class of 1883 at Columbia College, 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 Calvin's transfer to the British Museum, and the cry against the choice of a foreigner was raised in this case as with Mr. Lowell.—*McGill University Gazette.*

The McGill University *Gazette* complains of the inattention and want of interest manifested in their Literary Society. We

would advise them to make some approximation to parliamentary procedure as has been done with so much success in our own Society. The appointment of permanent leaders from each year charged with the responsibility of bringing out members and providing speakers has worked well with us. The only difficulty experienced is in hitting upon a principle of division. Most would object to political lines being drawn; but perhaps as politics are never discussed, that mode of dividing is the best that offers. The division made, and leaders from each year being chosen, an emulation at once arises which infuses animation and earnestness into discussions.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

III.

HIS SERIOUS POEMS.

In a paragraph, purporting to be a criticism, which appeared in the *Week* a short time since, and with which I have already ventured to disagree, it was stated of James Russell Lowell that in his serious poems he scarcely displayed the 'originality of genius.' Now, without especial reference to the editor of the *Week*, I observe that this remark is a stock phrase among magazine hacks and newspaper critics, and has probably been used by some member of their doubtful profession against every writer that ever lived. There have been those who would have us admire Shakespeare and Milton less reverently because they were not always original. But I have no sympathy with such professional cant. Furthermore, I much doubt whether the majority of those who habitually use this expression could give us an intelligible exposition of what the term 'originality of genius' really signifies. Let us endeavor to throw a little light on the question. And first with regard to originality. Speaking from a psychological and scientific standpoint, and with reference to the primary elements alone, there is no such thing as originality. The absolute creation of thought, no less than its absolute annihilation, is impossible to man. Moreover, the primary elements of thought are probably the same in all men of normal intellects, and the only possible originality is therefore originality of combination. This may be called creation, but it is rather the re-arrangement into novel forms of pre-existing elements. It is evident that both in variety and complexity of composition, the possible combinations of these primary elements are infinitely various. The combinations made by some minds are less numerous or less complex than those of others. However, all men make some of these combinations for themselves, and all men are so far original. Originality, therefore, is a matter of degree. Now, in the second place the question arises:

What degree of originality entitles a man to be called a genius? Here we are met with a difficulty, which is practically insurmountable if we are seeking for an absolute standard of genius. For it is clear that, as it is impossible for any mere man, however clever a critic he may be, to know but a very few of all the thoughts of men that have ever found expression, so it is impossible for him to pronounce affirmatively upon the originality of any given expression of the writer he is reviewing. And it is equally impossible for him to pronounce negatively. For as he does not know the secrets of the author's mind, he cannot say whether the author effected the given combination himself, or accepted it ready-made from another. The author himself is the only authority; and he is quite fallible, since he may have originally obtained the idea from another, and yet have entirely forgotten this fact subsequently. It is, of course, not sufficient to prove an author's lack of originality and of merit in a given case, to show that the thought he has expressed was previously expressed by someone else. For it is not only possible, but highly probable, that the same mental combinations may be made by two or more persons in entire independence of each other.

Furthermore, he who takes the simple thoughts of others and adds his own by way of illustration or ornament, is fairly entitled to be considered original as far as his illustrations or ornaments go, and, these, indeed, frequently constitute the most valuable part of the total thought. Indeed, strictly speaking, the use of different words to express a thought alters the thought, and gives originality to the expression; for words derive all their meaning from association, and it is probable that the associations in connection with no two words are precisely the same.

We conclude from all these considerations that the standard of originality and of genius cannot be absolute, but is strictly relative to the individual critic's mind, and that it will vary even in his mind according to the stage of intellectual advancement to which he has attained. If, therefore, Mr. Lowell does not appear to the editor of the *Week* to possess that degree of originality which would entitle

him to be called a genius; then, either this particular critic's standard must be ideally high, or he wishes us to believe that his own mental comprehensiveness is so great that Mr. Lowell has said little or nothing that is new to him, or that he (the critic) could not have said much better himself. Let us be charitable and take the former view. For myself, I am free to confess that in my estimation Mr. Lowell is original, and is a genius of no mean order.

Mr. Lowell has a delicate apprehension of the spiritual essence of common things. He sees in them a beauty and a glory which does not appear to the ordinary mind. His works are evidence of the truth of his own saying that

'All things have within their hull of use
A wisdom and a meaning which may speak
Of spiritual secrets to the ear
Of spirit.'

And again,

'Outward seemings are but lies,
The soul that looks within for truth may guess
The presence of some wondrous heavenliness.'

As might be expected, Mr. Lowell has written some superior poetical descriptions, although but very of his poems are descriptive throughout. One of these, the 'Summer Storm,' excels any poem that I have ever read on a similar topic. It is intensely, vividly realistic. So also is the following, which is transcribed from 'The Vision of Sir Launfal':

What so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days.

* * * * *

Now is the high-time of the year,
And whatever of life hath ebbed away
Comes flooding back with a ripply cheer,
Into every bare inlet and creek and bay;
Now the heart is so full that a drop overfills it,
We are happy now because God wills it;
No matter how barren the past may have been,
'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are green;
We sit in the warm shade and know right well
How the sap creeps up and the blossoms swell;
We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing
That skies are green and grass is growing;
The breeze comes whispering in our ear
That dandelions are blossoming near,
That maize has sprouted,
That streams are flowing,
That the river is bluer than the sky,
That the robin is plastering his house hard by.

Mr. Lowell is an exponent of the purest and loftiest idealism. The world he lives in is not material, but spiritual and ethereal, and its ineffable radiance he strives to reveal to us. All followers of the divinely-human Plato will find in Mr. Lowell a kindred spirit. His intellectual sympathy with Plato is well shown in that exquisite fantasy, 'In the Twilight':

Sometimes a breath floats by me,
An odor from Dreamland sent,
That makes the ghost seem nigh me
Of a splendor that came and went,
Of a life lived somewhere, I know not
In what diviner sphere,
Of memories that stay not and go not,
Like music once heard by an ear
That cannot forget or reclaim it,
A something so shy, it would shame it
To make it a show,
A something too vague, could I name it
For others to know?
As if I had lived it or dreamed it,
As if I had acted or schemed it,
Long ago!

But Mr. Lowell's highest ideal is moral and not intellectual. He holds that "all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action." He regards Truth, not Art, as the province of poetry, and emphatically dissents from the doctrine subscribed by your contributor, Mr. Sykes, that didactic poetry is a contradiction in terms. His own poetic powers were set on fire by moral

indignation at the wrongs suffered by one part of his race from another, and they glow with a fervor that has rarely been equalled. He plainly acknowledges as his purpose

To write some earnest verse or line
Which, seeking not the praise of Art,
Shall make a clearer faith and manhood shine
In the untutored heart.

Among philosophers, Fichte is, I think, the only one who at all resembles Lowell in his intense moral earnestness, and in his enthusiasm for humanity and for truth. Hear him:

'The traitor to Humanity is the traitor most accursed.'

* * * * *

'He's true to God who's true to man, wherever wrong is done
To the humblest and the weakest 'neath the all-beholding sun,
That wrong is also done to us; and they are slaves most base
Whose love of right is for themselves, and not for all their race.'

We boast of the glory of the British name, of our flag, and of the victories that have been won under it during many ages and in many lands. But what infernal iniquities most of these victories were will appear to those who have realized the spirit of the extract just given.

Moral courage in every form wins from Mr. Lowell the highest eulogiums:

'To meet
Wrong with endurance, and to overcome
The present with a heart that looks beyond,
Are triumphs.'

And again he defines success to be

'The inward surety, to have carried out
A noble purpose to a noble end,
Although it be the gallows or the block.'

But for moral cowardice he manifests the intense scorn of all sincere natures:

'They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing, and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think;
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.'

* * * * *

Those love (Truth) best who to themselves are true,
And what they dare to dream of dare to do.'

As might be expected, Mr. Lowell is no friend of the modern tendency of glossing over moral iniquities by agreeable euphemisms:

'Let us speak plain; there is more force in names
Than most men dream of; and a lie may keep
Its throne a whole age longer, if it skulk
Behind the shield of some fair-seeming name.'

The continued existence of many forms of wrong and injustice Mr. Lowell traces to that blind admiration of the past which is so prevalent among men. But to him the Past is only valuable in so far as her course coincides with the teachings of Reason and of Truth. He declares that

'The foolish and the dead alone never change their opinions.'

And again,

'New times demand new measures and new men;
The world advances, and in time outgrows
The laws that in our fathers' day were best.
Therefore think not that the Past is wise alone,
For yesterday knows nothing of the Best.
Upward the soul forever turns her eyes.
The next hour always shames the hour before,
One beauty at its highest prophecies
That by whose side it shall seem mean and poor;
No God-like thing knows aught of less and less,
But widens to the boundless Perfectness.'

I close these articles by three quotations, which show the sub-

lime height of Mr. Lowell's moral idealism. I know of no other poet who has written like this,—

'To change and change is life, to move and never rest;
Not what we are but what we hope is best.'

And,

*The thing we long for, that we are
For one transcendent moment.*

But would we learn that heart's full scope,
Which we are hourly wronging,
Our hearts must climb from hope to hope
And realize our longing.

And, regretting the disheartening experiences which come with age to all moral reformers, he referred to the earnestness and hope of their earlier years, and urges their continuance.

'We trusted then, aspired, believed
That earth could be re-made to-morrow;—
Ah! why be ever undeceived?
Why give up faith for sorrow?
'O thou, whose days are yet all spring,
Faith, blighted once, is past retrieving,
Experience is a dead, dumb thing;
The victory's in believing.'

A. STEVENSON.

PROF. TAIT ON MECHANICS.

To Vol. XV. of the Encyclopædia Britannica, recently issued, Prof. Tait contributes an article on Mechanics. From one who has given so much attention as Prof. Tait to this subject, we should expect something valuable and original. We are inclined to think the intelligent reader of this article would not be disappointed in such an expectation.

Its arrangement differs little from that which obtains in Thomson and Tait's *Natural Philosophy*. Like that work it is ostensibly and in reality a treatment of the subject based upon Newtonian enunciations and definitions. The author's aim is to elaborate and extend to their widest limit of application the mechanical notions and ideas found in the *Principia*. Thus the laws of motion are very appropriately enunciated at the outset, and declared to be the groundwork of the article.

After commenting briefly upon these laws, the writer takes up the kinematical branch of his subject. Here we find little that is new. What there is, though, is of considerable importance. At the outset a new term is introduced into the subject, and the definition of another term is extended. The new term adopted is *speed*, which is used in the sense of *rate of motion*. The term, *velocity*, is then defined as involving not only magnitude but also direction. We cannot but be pleased to see this notion of *velocity* thus prominently advanced by Prof. Tait, for it is in this view that it has for many years been presented in University College. The definition of *change of velocity*, and the propositions respecting the composition and resolution of velocity, all demand this extended definition of the term.

In the part of the article devoted to Dynamics, we are given the Newtonian definition of *force*. This, indeed, the author could not avoid. It is not necessary, however, to read his own intimation to that effect, which appears in the concluding sections, to see that he is not comfortable in presence of such a definition. He passes rapidly to the consideration of *work* and *energy* and gives many valuable and novel applications of the law of the conservation of energy.

Because of the wide extent of Dynamics, and by reason of the great variety of topics presented for consideration in that subject, the writer could not, within the limits of an article, give anything like an exhaustive treatment of its different themes. However, where such is not given, there are valuable references, which could not but be of great service to any one wishing to see the latest developments in any department of Mechanics.

To those who have given the subject any considerable amount of thought, the latter part of the article will no doubt be of the greatest interest. Under the heading *General Considerations*, he enters upon an inquiry into the merits of the laws of motion, as the ground work of a mechanical system. While he

asserts that no superior system has as yet been developed, he decides that the true laws of motion are those of the conservation, and transformations of energy. These, with the deductions from kinematics, he declares to be sufficient, and the best available foundation for a system of Mechanics. Force he considers a rate of transference of energy, without any objective reality—in short, nothing more than a rate, at which a motion phenomena changes. The adoption of such a definition of *force* would make the first two laws of motion, as at present enunciated, quite unnecessary, for they contain nothing more than the definition, while the third is directly deducible by differentiation from the law of the conservation of energy. These sections of the article in question, have already led to considerable controversy, and probably will lead to more.

A brief but very useful bibliography of the subject is appended to the article.

T. G. C.

THE BOATSWAIN IN 'THE TEMPEST.'

WRITTEN FOR 'VARSITY BY O. A. N.

The *Times*, thundering, tells of 'the puppy criticism of the unfledged Bachelor of Arts who proves his smartness by writing down Tennyson.' It seems unnecessary for me to confess that I am not one of the demi-godly creatures, the graduates; and although I have found it delicious to 'quaff with purpled lips the nectar of ~~love~~, I gravely doubt that I shall ever 'arrive at the starry citadel of a degree;—at least not probably till the University Senate makes LL.D. altogether honorary. Nor would I attempt to 'write down' anybody; especially not Tennyson,—that might seem superfluous. Yet let me offer a few crude comments on the suggestive worthy whose name ornaments the heading of this paper.

BOATS.—'Blow, till thou burst thy wind, if room enough!'

Poetic: he talks to the storm, fancying it alive; likely it seemed rather lively. Sailors always, when the billows rage, would rather have the ship in the middle of the sea than within sight of the shore, even of fatherland: we would rather continue very sick, for a long while, than have our illness quickly terminate in death.

ALON.—'Good boatswain, have a care.'

Many people are nervous about accidents, when travelling. Pshaw! you pay your fare, then it's the carrying company's business to take you through safe; if they let you drown, or break your neck, or anything, it behooves them to pay for it. They assume the risk; why need you worry? So the old Boatswain is properly disgusted at the tears and unmannerly interference with other people's duties, manifested by Alonzo and the other alarmed aristocratic land-lubbers.

BOATS.—'Keep your cabins: you do assist the storm.'

GON.—'Nay, good, be patient.'

BOATS.—'When the sea is. Hence! What care these roarers for the name of king?'

The tempest had excited the boatswain to a symphony of passion, so he talked poesy. Passion may be not always identical with poetry, yet, without passion and tenderest sympathy with surroundings, but little legitimate poetry can be called into being.

Nihilists, Socialists, Communists, Internationalists, Radicals,—'What care these roarers for the name of king?'

GON.—'Remember whom thou hast aboard.'

BOATS.—'None that I more love than myself.'—Frank, true, and sensible.

'In the character of *Ben*, Congreve gave the first humorous and natural representation of the English sailor, afterwards so fertile and amusing a subject of delineation with Smollett and other novelists and dramatists.' This Boatswain antedates *Ben* by about a century. Perhaps you say the Boatswain is Italian; he speaks excellent English for a foreigner.

BOATS.—'Give thanks you have lived so long.'—Most profound piety:—one wonders if the Boatswain was orthodox?

'Cheerley, my hearts!' reminds one of the 'Ye ho! lads, ye ho!' in *Nancy Lee*.

GON.—'If he be not born to be hanged, our case is miserable.' Geo. Farquhar (circa. 1700) 'did not remain his full time at the University. Having had a college exercise given him upon the subject of Christ's walking on the water, he was very late with it; and making an offer, which was accepted, of contributing something on the spur of the moment, he either produced an audacious epigram, or made a remark before he sat down to

write, referring to the proverb about 'the man who is born to be hanged.'

At the latter part of sc. 1, Sebastian, Antonio and Gozalo develop, for gentlemen, an admirable command of scurrilous language. The boatswain did his duty, and was roundly abused. How like real life are Shakespeare's scenes!

BOATS.—'What, must our mouths be cold?' His mouth, it would seem, was the main part of him. What went in thereat, with what came out therefrom, made up his being. Well, admitting all that, is he utterly unlike people we know?

Boatswain figures only in the first and in the last scene of the play. His last entrance, Gonzalo greets with

'Now Blasphemy!

That swarest grace o'erboard, not an oath on shore?
Hast thou no mouth by land?'

Boatswain on shore and becalmed doesn't seem the same man:

How much mankind, chameleon-like,
With circumstances changes colors!
.....'Not an oath on shore?'

Out on the Bay of Quinte, abreast of Bath, fifty years. or more ago, Jerry, the 'bold, bad man' of the village, the most jovial jester in all the taverns of the district, was caught in an open boat by a squall. One of his two companions dropped his oar, sank upon his knees, and began to repeat prayers. Jerry vigorously blasphemed at him, and threatened to throw him overboard if he did not instantly resume his oar, and pull for dear life. He pulled. When shore was won, Jerry turned toward him, and said contemptuously, 'Now pray on dry land—if you *must* pray:—not when you think you are going to be drowned.' How much has terror to do with religious emotion! or, rather, we ought to say, how little genuine religion is there in that which accompanies terror! Wm. Dunbar (circa 1500) sick, sang

'Timor mortis conturbat me!'

and many a more modern and less learned sinner, as true cause of his sudden piety, might confess

'The dread of death distracteth me!'

But the Good News, according to Paul of Tarsus, is that the Deus-Homo sets free 'them who through fear of death have been in bondage all their lives.'

Our Wallet.

A gentleman of color recently came into a newspaper office desiring to obtain employment for his boy. 'What can he do!' asked the editor. 'At fust he can't do nuffin but edit yo' paper, but after he gits mo' sense he can black yo' boots an' sweep yo' floo', mos' likely.'

* *

Among Patti's half-million dollars' worth of diamonds are many that came from the crowned heads, three Kings and two Queens being among the donors. There is a man in Chicago who used to wear diamonds who is now wearing pawn jewelry, owing to his having three kings and two queens mixed up in the affair. The other man held three aces and a pair of jacks.—*Peck's Sun.*

* *

The New York *Christian Witness* published the Ten Commandments a while ago, and now some country papers are reprinting them under the head-line of 'Pearls of Thought,' credited to the *Witness*.

* *

Maker of musical instruments, cheerfully rubbing his hands: 'There, thank goodness, the bass fiddle is finished at last!' After a pause: 'Ach, Himmel, if I haven't gone and left the glue-pot inside!'

* *

'Can I take your daughter in to supper?' inquired a New York youth of a woman from the country at a swell party.

'Can you take her in to supper? Why, of course you can; and you can take me, too. That's what we came here for.'

* *

With sails of gloom now sails my ship
Away the wild sea o'er,
You know how sorrowful I am
And trouble me so sore.

Your heart is faithless as the wind,
And flutters evermore;
With sails of gloom now sails my ship
Away the wild sea o'er.

—FREE LANCE.

* *

Dr.—'Well, Pat, 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.'—*Judy.*

* *

HOT SHOT FROM BOSTON.—New Yorker (who has been 'stuck' more than an hour with intellectual young lady from Boston): 'You say you despise New York men. Then why do you come to New York, and why do you go to New York parties?'

Young lady from Boston: 'For a complete intellectual rest.'—*Life.*

* *

'I want to get a dog's muzzle,' said a little fellow, entering a hardware store. 'Is it for your father?' asked the cautious store-keeper. 'No, of course it isn't,' replied the little fellow, indignantly; 'it's for our dog.'

* *

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.'—*McGill University Gazette.*

* *

At a recent meeting of French lawyers, M. Joseph Reinach collected some of the historical words which form the essence of Gambetta's eloquence. Among those pointed out, the following are most characteristic: At Bordeaux M. Gambetta said: 'When in France a citizen is born, a soldier is born at the same time.' At Harve—'There is no social cure because there is no social question.' At Paris—'I feel myself free to be both a believer in Joan of Arc and a pupil and admirer of Voltaire.' At Cahors—'Do not cry out "Vive Gambetta," but cry "Vive la Republique;" for the young have to grasp the idea, and have the conviction that men are nothing, but that principles are all.' At Menilmontant—'Not the sword alone can undo the Gordian knot; not power alone the international question.'

* *

One day as Thackeray was walking along Wych street, he passed a group of dirty little street Arabs. One little female tatterdemalion looked up at him as he passed and then called out to her younger brother: "Hi, Archie, do you know who him is? Him's Becky Sharp." "By Jove," said Thackeray to a friend "strange as it may seem, that little maiden gave me more pleasure than if I had received a complimentary letter from his Grace the Duke of Wellington. When your name gets into the slums that means fame; you have touched the bottom."