

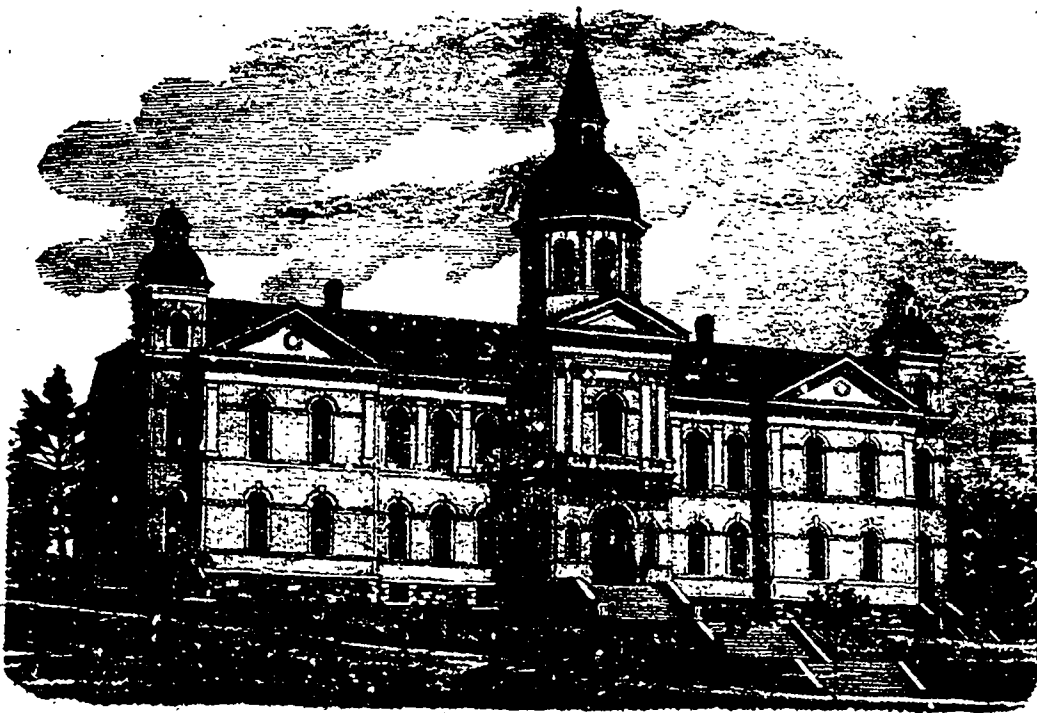
ACADIA ATHENEUM

Prodesse quam Conspici.

VOL. XIII.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., FEBRUARY, 1887.

No. 4.



◆ THE UNIVERSITY OF ACADIA COLLEGE. ◆

FACULTY OF INSTRUCTION.

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Acadia Athenæum.

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Athenæum.

→* The Sanctum. *←

EVERY student is familiar with those strong feelings of attachment that grow up between the members of the same class or even of one institution. The bond may at first be somewhat artificial, or it may depend on utilitarian principles, but soon it lays for itself a deeper foundation in common associations, common interests, and common aims. Continued intercourse tends to strengthen these ties, until, as one character leaves the impression of its prominent features upon another, the idea of plurality is merged into that of unity. The strength of this feeling leads one to question its bearing, not only on one's college career, but on the course pursued in after life. In a body of students where the *esprit de corps* is of a high intellectual and moral order it can only prove beneficial. Though it may occasionally lead some to an undue dependence upon their neighbors, its general tendency is toward a friendly emulation and hence the fuller expansion of the individual powers of each student. We believe it to be a fact, that whilst some of the most notable examples of greatness may be found in men who stood practically alone, the most

abundant examples will show us great men *in groups*, and establish the fact that the great works of every age have been accomplished not by genius which is separated from the rest of the world, but by that which has felt the pulse of life throbbing out beyond itself. English history, especially in its literary aspect, furnishes so many familiar examples of this that it is not necessary to refer to them here. It is well then that such a feeling of fellowship and cooperation should be encouraged. Fidelity to his class must ever be considered a virtue in a student. One beneficial result of this is that it holds the student in the college till his course is completed. Where this feeling is strong a student will suffer any inconvenience short of complete martyrdom rather than separate from his classmates. Another result is that when the students have completed their course the interests of each will centre upon that institution where they have been subjected to such strong molding influences. It lies at the foundation of the belief that the future of an institution lies in the hearts and pockets of her Alumni. It is what causes so many graduates to place on the head of their Alma Mater a golden crown. The stronger the growth of this spring of action during college life, the greater the results we may expect in after years. There is a danger, however, that extreme devotion to one's class or one's own college may assume in the eyes of others, the character of hostility to other classes and other colleges. This may be a very natural interpretation, but surely is not a very generous one. The feeling is a natural one, and also elevating and enduring. Let it then have free play and full force. As we watch the development of circumstances we are led to believe that the expected increase in the endowment of Acadia will be largely the result of that sentiment which was conceived and fostered within her own halls.

THE choice of a course through life is one of the questions which, before its settlement, vexes a number of students not a little. Each one imagines that, since he has taken a college course and consequently been at a certain amount of expense in acquiring an

education, he can engage in no occupation other than one of the so called professions. It seems never to occur to him that some other business may be adopted and followed in such a manner as really to place it in the same catalogue with law, medicine, teaching, &c. Quite recently the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association held a dinner and meeting in Chipman Hall. Judging from the proceedings of the Association its object is to educate its members to a scientific method of growing and exporting fruit, and to see that Nova Scotian fruit is represented at the various exhibitions. The industry has now reached a very high point of importance and is receiving a careful investigation in all its phases. Towards the accomplishment of any object for which the Association was formed, we see no reason why a course of training taken at an institution of learning need render a person too proud or unfit for a competitor. In the converse, because an occupation other than one now recognized as a profession be chosen, is it a reason that an education will be of no benefit to such a person and hence there exists no need of getting one? There is fear to believe that the two ideas exist, however unjustly. One thing seems to be pretty generally admitted. It is, that to be a successful agriculturalist a liberal training is needed. The remark, indeed, need not be confined to the agriculturalist. The successful pursuit of any occupation makes the same demand. It will readily be seen that the effect of the two notions pointed out as exercising an influence in this matter of education, will be to turn all the benefits of training into particular channels. The industries of our country will not receive that ennobling attribute which from the sources of learning should flow into them. They will not appear in an elevated light. As a result the social system is a structure not equally proportioned. One class of society receiving all the benefits of training its development far outstrips that of other classes. An undue degree of preponderance is thus attached to it and one class of men exercise too great an influence over the others. When the power of our institutions of learning is more generally felt, and their healthful effect extended to a wider sphere, then, and not till then, will they be more fully accomplishing their true mission, and then will all classes assume their true positions.

THE possibilities which lie before a student in his college course are so numerous that it is little to be wondered at, if he fail to attain the full benefit of all. In the energetic pursuit of some favorite course he may entirely overlook another, which, perhaps, appeals for his attention with equal force of reason. Hence there arises a necessity of continually referring to those things which are most likely to be neglected. The advantages which our literary society affords for incidental culture have not been unnoticed in our editorial columns. The desirability of students, early in their course, engaging actively in its business transactions and in the debates has been often urged. The students' attention has been frequently directed to these opportunities for taking their first lessons in *oratory*, but, in the meantime, another, and an equally important feature has been almost entirely forgotten. We refer to the *specific literary work* done in our society—the original papers prepared for and delivered before it.

The more apparent advantages for initial literary efforts afforded by an extended course of essays in our curriculum may have overshadowed this element of the work of our society. But we appeal against such a condition of things. The essays in course are prepared for the eye of the professors. The paper for the society is placed before a *jury of our peers*. Our own powers are tasked for a decision as to what is suitable for such public exhibition. Hence in the latter case there is more careful exercise of judgment coupled with greater freedom and fullness of thought and expression, wherein we may find the true germ of the literary work of after life. Whilst some advantage has been taken of the means of practical education thus afforded, the desired standard has, by no means, been obtained. A few original papers have been prepared each year; but why should the number be few? An occasional spark of poetic fire has startled the community on the hill, but the breath of our society has never been expended in fanning that spark into a flame. The time has come when it is almost a question if some other name than "Literary Society"—a name less consonant with that of student—would not more correctly characterize our exercises.

It is true that the circumstances of the case argue that the work done must be amateur in character. Not only does the student lack the experience, but he lacks the time necessary for the fullest inquiry into

and development of those subjects assigned. In making an effort, however, he is on the sure road to experience; and the time spent is well spent, though its contracted limits may contribute to an abortive product.

On another score there is a growing cause for trepidation. The idea seems to prevail that these papers are intended only for the amusement and relaxation of the hearers, and as a consequence they are crowded with fierce invectives, wild extravagances, local hits, and paltry puns. Experience gives evidence of a growing tendency to lower the literary standard in order to gain that passing applause which like the flickering flame of tinder, pleases one moment and is gone forever. Freedom from the criticism of superiors should never be grasped as a license for the outpouring of flood of ghastly nonsense; rather it should inspire one to attain even added dignity and excellency in his work. These efforts, occupying as they do the place of extra work, may necessarily be limited; but surely as far as they are pursued they should be an exhibition of the best powers of the student in their present stages of development. Not only are the conditions given favorable to the fullest development of original thought and freedom of expression, but they also call upon one to seek for excellency of dictation, and an increased familiarity with the beauties of our mother tongue.

THE mortification to which one of our number was recently put in connection with his position as an Editor of our paper is a matter deserving of censure. In the light of the most lenient construction which can be put upon the act, the conclusion of its being anything else than a piece of forgery cannot be avoided. As such every fair-thinking student must recognise his obligation to discountenance it. One or two instances could already be cited in which a similar practice has occurred. Thoughtlessness may be urged by some as the ground of such an act. In the main we are inclined to grant such a claim; but the fact of thoughtlessness being its origin can in no degree excuse the perpetrator. Besides the mere annoyance which must of necessity happen to the victim, the use of another's signature without any knowledge on his part is going far beyond all reach of propriety and patience. Even if we imagine a certain amount of pleasure to be afforded to some minds by causing another discomfort,

the using of another's name for such a purpose is certainly one of the most offensive methods which could be adopted. The consequences involved in the cases to which we have referred, it is true, were of a light and trivial character and such as admitted of a ready explanation from the one misrepresented; but the continuation of the practice, should the offender be detected, would in all probability cause him some degree of trouble.

A SINGING CLASS under the tuition of Mr. H. N. Shaw has been formed among us. Although we regret to say it, the fact nevertheless remains, that the Glee Club has become as good as extinct. Believing as we do, that, apart from the enjoyment derived from it, the art of singing well forms a considerable factor in general culture, it gives us pleasure to make an announcement with regard to the formation of such a class. Mr. Shaw proposes to teach the knowledge requisite for reading music and to put special stress upon that part of singing as relates to expression. The pieces sung at our morning exercises have long shown the need of some training in the latter direction. A body of young men, the majority of whom may possess good musical ability, are yet, while ignorant of the first principles of music as an art, quite capable of producing some specimens of singing without a parallel in the history of man. The small amount of time spent in attending the lessons will to an attentive pupil more than pay for itself in the instruction received. We tender Mr. Shaw our hopes for success and trust that the students will regard it as an opportunity too important to be lost.

THE recent discussion between our correspondent and writers in the *Dalhousie Gazette* has been marred by language which should have been reserved as the private property of street urchins. It is evident that, as is usual under such circumstances, each party is willing to believe itself perfectly innocent and to allow the other to shoulder all the blame. We regret that so much personal recrimination has been indulged in, and consider it best, in order no farther to endanger the feeling of good fellowship between the two bodies of students and their representative teams, to decline to review the last article in the *Gazette*.

As our captain, Mr. J. T. Prescott, has claimed the privilege of vindicating *himself*, we have given him space, but must decline to carry the controversy farther. The game is one necessarily full of heat and excitement and one in which a quick temper may easily be stirred; but we hope that if the annual matches are to be continued each team will hereafter strive to outdo the other in courtesy, that no such unpleasant consequences may ensue. We should also advise that reporters be appointed by each club and that they work together, as in this way whatever is objectionable to either club may be eliminated.

THE following arrangements have been made in reference to French. To the course of studies laid down for the Freshman year it has been added. Members of the Sophomore and Junior classes are allowed to substitute it for Greek should they choose to do so. At present the Seniors can obtain it only by taking it as an extra. Instruction is now being given in this branch by Miss Margeson who has been detached from the staff of teachers in the Seminary, and Prof. Coldwell.

THE STUDY OF GREEK.

THE present age is pre-eminently one of progress. The old is ever giving place to the new. This has nowhere been more noticeable perhaps than in the changing curricula of American colleges. For some few years past there has been a marked tendency to substitute Modern Languages or scientific subjects in place of the ancient classics. At last this change has been adopted at Acadia, and the young student now learns to answer "Parlez-vous Français?" in the affirmative and give abundant proof thereof, instead of making himself familiar with the mythological heroes of Greek tragedy as heretofore.

But let the diligent and painstaking student pause ere he give to his Greek grammar the dustiest corner of his bookshelf; let him consider the matter well before he consigns to the oblivion of forgetfulness the matchless imagery and description of Homeric verse.

The study of the Greek language is attended with many difficulties. Except to a very few supremely endowed by nature, the path which the college

student pursues in his efforts to acquire even a moderate knowledge of the language is a thorny one, haunted by spectres from the shades of Pluto, which are ever goading him to despair by pointing derisively with their shadowy skelton fingers and hissing in his too fearfully believing ears the direful "plucked."

Even the appearance of the Greek alphabet is premonitive of future difficulty. How it recalls to the mind the indescribable "pot-hooks and cranes" of our early childhood, or the cabalistic characters on the tea-chests at the corner grocery, which we used to examine with such awe as something no mortal ever understood or could by any possibility learn.

But even the very difficulties presented in the study of Greek are strong arguments themselves in support of it as a college study, for who ever heard of one being permanently benefited by that which cost him little or no effort to acquire.

It is generally admitted that the ultimate ends of a liberal education, such as is supposed to be given in our colleges, are mental discipline and knowledge.

Of these, discipline in its broadest sense is to be ranked first; and what more calculated to impart mental vigor, perception, memory, clear and correct reasoning power than the study of Greek? In the varying declensions of nouns and pronouns, the interminable verb, the multitudinous references to syntax, there is certainly a fine field for the memory to revel in and must necessarily give to that faculty of the mind a strength which can be acquired by no other means.

If "Latin is a dead language but a living agent" Greek occupies a similar position and in a more exalted degree. All that cultivation of the observant powers, reason, invention, and judgment which has been so justly ascribed to the study of the Latin language, may be said with equal reason of the Greek.

This language is doubtless the most perfect in structure and form the world has ever seen. The Greek mind eminently fanciful, imaginative, poetical, and philosophical, had not the facility of borrowing from other languages words to express their abstract ideas; hence confined to their own tongue exclusively, they spared no pains to make it as comprehensive and expressive as possible, and in this respect they attained a degree of perfection that has never been equalled. The study of such a tongue, therefore, cannot but give to the student a power of expression and command of language obtained by the study of no other; for it is evident that the more perfect and logical a language is in the expression of its ideas, the better for the development of thought in the student, and the deeper will be the impression in regard to the laws of thought. But this is looking at only one phase of the question. Language must be distinguished from literature. Learning a language is not becoming acquainted with a literature. The

latter includes not only an acquaintance with the former, its idioms, turns of thought &c., but also a knowledge of the thought, sentiment and feeling which has been gathered in process of time and stored up in the granary of the language.

Mr. Faine says,—“Literary works are instructive because they are beautiful; their utility grows with their perfection, and if they furnish documents, it is because they are monuments”; and where can be found a literature more fitted in this regard as an adequate instrument of liberal education than the Greek, the choicest and most perfect of all.

A most fatal mistake is committed just here by young students. They do not see at first very much to admire in the language or literature, and therefore conclude there is nothing worthy of admiration about it; and of course they know more concerning the matter than the Professor, so they take the assignments with a wry face, as they take a dose of noxious medicine, or as Topsy took her whippings because they “Specs its good for ‘em”; hence never looking for the many attractive features, they of course never discover them. For this reason they never seek anything; farther than to get over a fair translation of the words before them, often with the help of the much abused “pony,” while the wealth of beauty in word composition, euphony, poetic imagery, logical conclusion, and depth of philosophy, lies an unexplored land of delight, far removed from their conception.

But some ambitious self-asserting student may say that these productions of the ancient Greeks are not worthy of the high place they hold in literature; that almost any intellectual mind, his own not excepted, could under similar circumstances create productions equally as good. To such an one the best answer to give is that which the college professor made to the young man who said that he could make just as good Proverbs as those of Solomon. “Just make a few,” said the professor, and so we say to such an aspirant to literary honours; just write something to equal the productions of the Greek mind. Ay, call up even the immortal Shakespeare and get him to write a tragedy greater than those of Aeschylus; let Burke or Pitt be conjured up to excel by their orations those of the unrivalled Demosthenes!

The truth of the matter is the Greeks were a superior people, and as such will remain to despite the boasts of this nineteenth-century intellectuality.

The most beautiful architecture of to-day is diminished by the glories of sculptured Athens. In whom has the world ever seen a second Homer, Aeschylus, Demosthenes, Plato or Aristotle?

Under a literary aspect the eloquence and poetry of Greece were the models of Latin excellence. Cicero, the greatest of Latin orators, lamented much that he had not commenced the study of the Greek earlier in life. The Grecian masters in poetry, history and

philosophy have been the models down through the ages, and much of the best productions in our own literature have an acknowledged Greek basis, and would be robbed of a great point of their excellence if that element were withdrawn.

But it may be argued that all this refinement of thought and feeling may be obtained through the medium of translations, without such a sacrifice of time and energy. To which it must be answered that no language least of all the Greek, with its profuseness of figurative meaning and idiomatic expression, can be at all faithfully represented in another tongue.

Robbed of its native garb the Greek is like some rare tropical flower which when transplanted to a foreign soil, loses forever the exquisite tinting, fragrance for which it was so highly prized.

Is not that beauty and acuteness of conception, that powerful imagination, that apparently God-given reason and philosophy, which all but “drew aside the veil” between paganism and christianity, is not all this worthy of being read and considered with the most serious and laborious attention by the conscientious student?

But are there no practical uses to which the knowledge of Greek may be devoted? Yes, so far as language is practical, notwithstanding many assertions to the contrary. It is well known that much of the English language is derived from the Greek; hence knowledge of the latter gives one an untold advantage in deciding pronunciation, accentuation, rhythm and meaning, so that in learning Greek we are adding to our store of available English.

No one will attempt to deny its usefulness to the theological student. It forms a part of his very life and is as necessary to his success, as the lectures on Homiletics. In the sciences it plays an important part. The ease with which scientific terms especially in Geology are understood and remembered when the Greek derivations are borne in mind, affords a striking contrast to the inextricable mud-dle which would necessarily ensue if nothing were known of the language. It thus really saves time and labour.

In medicine its practical utility is still more apparent. As Aesculapius was the God of the medical art, so the Greek language is the medium in which the forms of disease and names and affects of medicines are conveyed to our minds although we may be ignorant of it. Remove all traces of that language and medicine as a science would cease to be taught until a new nomenclature had been established. The result of such a catastrophe can be more easily imagined than described.

Then let no one suppose, that, in making himself acquainted with these masters of literature and the language in which they wrote, he is wasting his best energies, but rather let him congratulate himself that he is gaining control of a power, which wields an influence as wide as the world.

"LIFT UP YOUR HEADS."

O Day, why lingerest still thy feet
 Along the corridors of night?
 Know not the world hath waited long
 For waking song, for waking light?
 Along the valley, on the hill
 Sleeps still the noisome evening mist:
 And by its banks the river slow
 Streams its cold length yet sun-un-kissed.
 Lift up, lift up your heads
 O gates of shining day!

Why cometh not the blessed dawn
 For suffering souls that watch thro' pain?
 Long, long the night and without end
 Its creeping hours. Will e'er again
 The silence ring with daylight sounds?
 The weeping cease from tired eyes?
 Ah! who shall know the bitter woe
 That looks in vain for morning skies?
 Lift up, lift up your heads
 O gates of shining day.

Long waits the world for morning dawn—
 Its watching eyes with pain grow dim.
 Know not, ye waiting souls and sad,
 The night is but a mist of sin?
 Behold ev'n now the breaking clouds
 Proclaim a coming Sun and King;
 Lift up, lift up, O waiting hearts,
 And let this King of Glory in.
 " Lift up, lift up your heads
 Ye everlasting doors:

B. B.

BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE AS PART OF AN INTELLECTUAL OUTFIT.

It is not our business to urge the importance of a knowledge of the Bible on moral and spiritual grounds but we may properly call attention to the necessity of such knowledge to every one who claims to be liberally educated. Surely his mental equipment is defective whose training has left him ignorant of the Scriptures. This statement requires illustration rather than proof. Let it be remembered in the first place the prominent position in the world's thought held by the Bible. The millions of copies so widely scattered, the vast number of translations and versions, the various texts and readings, all combined to make it a book of such note, a book that meets one at so many points in high quarters and low, that a man who claims to be educated must often be embarrassed who is ignorant of it. No book of

science or literature will be so often referred to and discussed by the people he meets as this one book which everybody reads. Or if he avoids the multitude and enters the world of thinkers he will find himself more directly met by the Scriptures. As a student of books he cannot help meeting the vast number of commentaries, discourses, treatises, and poems founded upon the biblical records or suggested by Scriptural subjects. Even if we go into the ranks of its opponents we find the power of the Bible recognized; though we may ignore it the enemies of Scriptures will not neglect it for they feel and discern its tremendous power.

Or if we think of the subjects it brings before us,—the history it records, the philosophy it teaches, the contribution it makes to the great problems of life and mind, in a word the amazing richness of the volume, we see the defective education of one whose mental furniture does not include what is obtained from the Bible. The man who claims to be intelligent cannot afford to be ignorant of Christian civilization and that civilization cannot be understood apart from the sacred writings which have created it.

An acquaintance with what is called polite literature only makes the want of appreciation of biblical literature the more apparent. Says Farrar, whose opinion as a literary man is certainly worth of note,—“The Bible contains the very wisdom of nine-tenths of all that is best and noblest in the literature of all mankind.” Says Dr. Schaff, whose reputation as a writer is worldwide: “Viewed merely as a human or literary production, the Bible is a marvellous book, and without a rival. All the libraries of theology, philosophy, history, antiquities, poetry, law and policy would not furnish material enough for so rich a treasure of the choicest gems of human genius, wisdom, and experience. It embraces works of about forty authors, representing the extremes of society, from the throne of the King to the boat of the fishermen; it was written during a long period of sixteen centuries, on the banks of the Nile, in the desert of Arabia, in the land of promise, in Asia Minor, in Classical Greece, and in imperial Rome; it commences with the creation and ends with the final glorification, after describing all the intervening stages in the revelation of God and the spiritual development of man, it uses all forms of literary composition; it rises to the highest heights and descends to the lowest depths of humanity; it measures all states and conditions of life; it is acquainted with every grief and every woe; it touches every chord of sympathy; it contains the spiritual biography of every human heart; it is suited to every class of society, and can be read with the same interest and profit by the King and the beggar, by the philosopher and the child; it is as universal as the race, reaches beyond the limits of time into the boundless regions of eternity.”

But we need not multiply quotations or add argu-

ment. The Bible is here; it is here to stay; it is making such a stir in the world that a college trained man who is practically unacquainted with it can scarcely expect to escape the contempt of the active, living, thinking men of the world. To know everything except the Bible will become more and more discreditable; it is indeed impossible to know many subjects thoroughly without knowing what the Scriptures contain.

But how is this knowledge to be obtained. Very largely, it may be said, the student must obtain it by independent study. He will get but little help from his college work. His historical studies may indirectly refer to sacred narrative but the book as a whole is carefully excluded from the Class Room. On broad educational grounds the book would claim attention, but the fact that it is a religious book is regarded, rightly or wrongly, sufficient reason for discriminating against it. This being the case unless the student arranges for his own reading of Scripture by an inflexible law; unless he avails himself of the help of associated study in voluntary classes he will find himself at the end of his college course, if not at the end of his life, ignorant of the book which Walter Scott said was the *only* book, ignorant of what it is alike a misfortune and a disgrace not to know.

THE GRADUATE IN ARTS.

We hear of the constantly increasing number of students who attend the different institutions of learning which are distributed so generously over our land (when compared with those of fifty years ago) with feelings of pleasure as showing that the people are at least beginning to have a proper appreciation of the study of the liberal arts.

So essential is a good education becoming that it is next to impossible for one without it to obtain any prominence in public life, aside from the consideration of one other thing which now seems to be a requirement—the possession of wealth. True, exceptions may be cited but they are rare, and as education becomes more wide spread they diminish in number. But now about the student while at college—he puts in a hum drum sort of existence the time being about taken up in study, going to lectures, exercise, and by no means least, if report speaks truly, attendance at the dining hall. His associates are nearly always confined to class-mates and he sees about as little of real life as can well be imagined. The better scholar generally the better this will apply.

After the course has been completed he is supposed to be able to look out for himself, and as he has obtained the coveted learning, according to popular notion, he should be quite fitted to easily provide himself not with the bare necessities but with the

luxuries of life. The facts of the case however are sometimes different. On leaving college, unless he has friends able and willing to help him to enter some congenial occupation he is thrown entirely on his own resources without any previous training as a bread winner, and he finds that to obtain wherewithal to supply his needs requires much more exertion than to write a letter to the *Pater* conveying a hint that the present state of his exchequer is exceedingly low and sadly needs replenishing. And as a result in many of our cities graduates in arts may be found seeking positions of trust that they consider themselves perfectly competent to fill. They think the fact of their knowing how to deduce formulas for doing all sorts of impossible things should be a sufficient guarantee for their correctness in book-keeping or that their ability to give the root of the hardest Greek verb that ever puzzled a Freshman should entitle them to a place behind the dry-goods counter. But the manager generally thinks otherwise and it is a sad fact that young men who hold as good sheepskins as were ever bought for a dollar and bestowed by the president of the college through which they have passed are not so eligible for good situations as those who know nothing but the mere routine of the business.

But this will only apply to one sort of student. Those who look forward to something beyond the mere possession of the A.B., and who only think of it as a means towards acquiring an end are the ones to whom an education means something. Of course if a man has nothing particular to do in this life, and thinks he is one of those favored mortals whose happy lot it is to drift along with no need for thought or care, a merely college education may be desirable as adding polish and a certain kind of refinement. But the wide-awake, pushing man who is a characteristic of our times will not be satisfied unless it is followed by something of more practical use. Not but that college education is useful in every sense of the word but the good is confined to the man and further training is needed to make him of use to his fellows and thus enable them to fulfil the duties of citizenship.

A liberal education works in this direction by creating the power to labor, while the useful courses furnish the special knowledge which is necessary to direct one in his labor. Formerly there were three principal courses having for their objects the healing of disease, the administration of justice and the care of souls. But now every thing which supplies the needs of humanity is pursued with untiring energy and the courses of useful study are as various as the wants of mankind. And if the student is made of the right material he will not be baffled by seemingly unsurmountable difficulties but will push on and finish at some first-class university what he has only laid the foundation for at College.

C. W. E.

NOR'-WEST REMINISCENCES.

THE paper given below was read by Rev. F. C. Harrington, before the Athenæum Society on the evening of January 21st. The students enjoyed the paper and tendered the gentleman a vote of thanks. We have much pleasure in placing it before our readers.

One of the great ambitions of my boyhood days was to follow the sage advice of Horace Greely, and point for the setting sun. The imaginations of myself and one of my brothers, the immortal Hanc, had been inflamed by some of those dime novels, got up in the shape of Government Pamphlets, full of Fourth of July panegyrics on the great and glorious Nor'-West, with its boundless flower-spangled prairies, its astounding fertility, its precocious cities, its majestic rivers, its park-like poplar groves gemming the long-rolling undulations of the prairie, its countless lakes, swarming with fish of all kinds waiting impatiently to be caught, its herds of buffalo shaking the solid earth with their wild gallop, its elk and antelope, its jack-rabbits, warranted to distance a cyclone or wind a blizzard, and multitudes of other strange and beautiful phenomena too numerous to mention. And many a plan did we concoct by which we might reach that Land of Beulah, that new Arcadia, that modern Utopia, that happy hunting ground of the gaudily bedizened red man, and having gathered up the gold that lay in the furrows of the prairie, and slaughtered countless bison and "grizzlies" while so engaged, might then return covered with glory, if not with gore, to our native land. But the fates were against us and we did not go. However, the idea of going lingered and was strengthened by new revelations, given in new pamphlets, more exceeding wondrous in their ingenious one-sidedness. In ways that are vain and tricks that are strange these pamphleteers are peculiar. And at last the long-looked-for time came, when myself and another brother (the immortal Hanc who had gained wisdom in the classic halls of Acadia and lost his old-time enthusiasm,) started for this enchanting El Dorado, this Paradise of Squatters, armed with guns, revolvers and bowie-knives, scissors, needles and Perry Davis' Pain Killer and all the other paraphernalia necessary to a fierce frontier life. Boarding a train we were soon rattling on in a gay and festive manner mid the Arctic May scenery of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

If the old French pirate who discovered Bay Chaleur, had found it on that 3rd of May when we gazed upon the loads of hay crossing its broad surface on the ice and had waded thro' three feet of snow on that bitter cold May day, he would have hesitated before giving the Bay such a name. On we thundered thro' the cedar swamps and rocky hills of New

Brunswick, past the long narrow fenced farms of Quebec, the landscape fairly alive with multitudinous writhing, cavorting, snake-like fences; on thro' the darkness, leaping and thundering the train rushes, an iron cyclops, its one eye gleaming balefully, its iron frame trembling with latent energy.

On to Ottawa our civic capital, where for several months in the year, from all parts of our glorious Dominion, gather our Canadian magi to air their wisdom and elocution. Here we remained a few days waiting for the flood then blocking all travel to the N. W. to subside. As the House was in session we gained entrance thereto, and gazed with awe and veneration on the dome-like foreheads, pensive features and nodding heads of the drowsy mob below, soothed by the somniferous monotone, the words of which we could not catch of one or more of our country's fiery orators. Then sadder and wiser we went away. After leaving Ottawa we are delayed a night in Chicago, a day in beautiful St. Paul, and remain over a day in Fargo to see a friend, and then on to Winnipeg. After leaving Fargo we pass thro' a prairie country, level and treeless and monotonous. At last we cross the line between St. Vincent and Emerson and are in the Land of Prairie. Rapturously we gaze out of the car windows at this magnificent country. As far as the eye could see nothing but a huge swamp, out of which rose stunted underbrush and small poplar clumps, while flocks of wild ducks, geese and swans swam placidly over the prairie. It was an affecting sight! Bye and bye we reach Winnipeg the fair prairie city whose praise was in everybody's mouth and whose potatoes were two dollars a bushel. The flood had subsided but the mud still held on. And there is no discount on Winnipeg mud. It is the dirtiest, greasiest, slipperiest, stickiest, most atrocious mud on the face of the globe. Now Main street in Winnipeg is well paved, then it was a quag-mire. And such a scene as there was about Winnipeg station is not often seen. *Baggage!* literally heaps upon heaps, heaps upon heaps, inside and outside, piled up in the most inextricable masses conceivable. *People!* why it seemed as if all men had made up their minds at the same time that they would get to Winnipeg or die. Main street crowds rivalled those of Clark street or Madison street in Chicago. And mostly all were men, young men, coming to make a fortune in this veritable Land of Promise. After remaining in Winnipeg a few days to get our luggage disinterred, we go on further west to Brandon, 145 miles. Here we spend the 24th of May and we do not hanker after such another Queen's birth-day as that was. Brandon is now a city of wood, stone and brick, with good roads and sidewalks. *then* it was a scattered collection of tents, and had enough mud to suit a Winnipegger. Snowstorm on the Queen's Birth-day made things miserable enough. Living in a breezy, fireless tent,

or wandering in sleet or snow and mud made one get out his pamphlets to read about the early, delightful Manitoba springs and then stick pins in his anatomy lest he might be dreaming after all, or have been spirited away to Greenland by mistake. But pamphlets cannot lie. All these discouraging features are merely items not worth mentioning, or not sufficiently adapted to beguile the would-be emigrant from a fairer clime. But West-ward Ho ! is still the cry, and as a train runs out from Brandon some 30 or 40 miles we enquire as to the hour for starting and are told 8 a. m., next morning. So we go down early to get a seat, and sit down by the car window to watch the muddy waters of the serpentine Assiniboine flowing solemnly thro' the wooded valley below us. Time passes, even when one is waiting for a train to start, and bye and bye the starting time comes and goes and the minutes drag their weary length to hours and we move not. However, we are assured that it will not do for us to leave the car as the train may go any minute. *Dinner-time* comes, and we rush out to the nearest food-market, snatch a bite and run back. *Supper-time* comes and still the solemn Assiniboine rolls past, but the train like a valuable article in the hands of an Auctioneer, though ever *going* seems bound never to be *gone*. And so darkness settles down over river, valley and prairie and town, and slowly the night hours wear away till dawn glimmers in the East.

Then we start on our 30-mile trip, and arrive the same day at our destination. Next night we sleep in a baggage car, so full of trunks and boxes and bags, that there is just room to crawl in between them and the top of the car and stay wherever you can find the softest trunk-lid or box-edge on which to sleep. Jammed thus into the car are, besides ourselves, a gang of navvies, going from the lumber woods to work on the railway. Winnipeg rum had tuned them up, and you can imagine the rest. From there we go on in company with some teams as far as where Broadview is now. The roads were very bad, and wading through swamps, and unloading and reloading teams, which were continually being mired in the "slews," kept us from getting homesick. The country around Broadview is very pretty. Low hills covered with poplars, fresh and green in their new foliage, were a pleasing change after hundreds of miles of low, swampy prairie or barren sandhills. But here, as elsewhere, distance lends enchantment. The soil is somewhat light, though good: the country is very much "broken" by "slews," and the poplar groves do not bear close inspection, being merely clumps of small trees growing around the ponds on the ridges. It was then June and the weather was simply glorious. Breezy, bright, exhilarating, making it a pleasure to live. The nights still kept very cold and mosquitoes

seemed lurking in battalions under every blade of grass. Out in the open air all day, and sleeping in a tent all night, life seemed like a huge picnic. A couple of weeks later we got a chance in a team going back toward Brandon, and took advantage of it. We arrived there in a fierce North-East rain storm, cold as November, and Brandon was again a sea of mud. Cattle had gone down nearly one-half, and we got an able young yoke of oxen, and, after a little delay, started off with our loaded "prairie-schooner" and a cow to spy out the land. The June rains had come late and were now making the roads terrible. We were alone, and, when the wagon got stuck, had only our own team to depend upon to get it out. They were young and not very well broken, but, when it came to drawing a heavy wagon through mud up to the hubs, they were "all there."

To tell of our adventures and mis-adventures during 450 miles of such travelling would take too long. At Fort QuAppelle we stopped two days to rest and put a new tongue in the wagon, as we found there the first hardwood we had seen on the trail. The scenery around Fort Qu Appelle is bold, rugged, and picturesque, and the blue, wind-swept waters of the lakes, lying far down in the ravine, looked more than beautiful to one who had seen nothing for months but swamps and muddy creeks. The lakes are called Fishing Lakes and abound with pike. On leaving Qu Appelle our destination was the Saskatchewan, but, after passing Moose Jaw Creek, the land got so light, and vegetation so scanty, that on arriving at Old Hive's Lakes, 60 miles further west, we held a consultation with those who had accompanied us from Fort Qu Appelle, and decided to return to Moose Jaw and "squat." There we put in three years watching the mercury vary from 65° below zero to 105° above zero. Years of drought and famine. Then we returned East with our own opinion of the country that all the Government Pamphlets and Railway Guides can never change one iota. There is good land in some places: there is fine weather sometimes: there are good crops in some parts. There is lots of wood where it is not needed, and lots of water, such as it is, where it is not wanted, and lots of game and fish somewhere, if you can find them. There are some rivers with water in them, some lakes with fish in them, and some days in winter are too cold for the mosquitoes to be out. But when you see men hauling water 12 miles, wood 15 miles, and hay 20 miles; when you see seed sown over thousands of acres of land four seasons in succession without any return, you get homesick for Nova Scotia again, a far better land in every way than the North-West will ever be. So, for the present, we cease our wanderings in the North-West.

EXCHANGES.

THE Christmas Number of the *Record* is as usual up to time. The criticism of the "Golden Dog" is interesting. The editorials are suggestive of that good feeling and peace with all the earth, which the joys of the holiday season are sure to bring.

We would say in reference to the "British School at Athens," that just how much real practical good comes from the study of this thing is a difficult question to answer. The study of Archaeology, while it may be exceedingly beneficial, appears to be a good way for people who seem very much like cranks to amuse themselves, and not one calculated to elevate the world either politically or religiously. The "English notes" this time are correct as far as our memory serves us. The *Record* is very fortunate in having such a reliable and interesting source of poetry.

THE publication of an editorial concerning the recent revolution that has taken place at Amherst College, in the *University Monthly*, is a step in the right direction and we heartily concur with it. There can be no surer way of securing such improvements than by showing approval of the same in a public way. In accordance with promises the *Monthly* has donned a neat though somewhat bilious looking cover. Though appearances are often deceitful, a comfortable dress is indicative of a healthy body.

THE *Dalhousie Gazette* for December is rather above the average number and contains several instructive and a few amusing articles.

"Are we on the right track," is well written and deserves careful consideration. The "good advice to Freshmen" contains some solid reason but has a tendering towards foolishness. It always falls to the lot of the Freshmen to furnish material for the embryo college humorist to distinguish himself upon. It would be well if some of our would be humorists before giving themselves up to this kind of literature, would examine themselves and see if they are not better fitted for something of a more modest nature.

It gives us much pleasure to see that some of our exchanges are departing from the regulation of filling up college journals with articles purely literary or scientific and indulging in more practical questions which not only air the feelings of the editor on important matters but also place before the public something of a more readable and perhaps just as instructive nature. The *Colby Echo* has two articles of this sort, "True Success" and "Self Culture," which are each of high merit.

THE last number of the *University Gazette* with the exception of an article "Mental Slavery and Mental Freedom," seems to be made up of nothing in particular and every thing in general. From such a scope of intellect as McGill has at her command, we would look for something rather heavy; and an institution of her sort representing every phase of religion and politics must admit of more freedom of thought than can be expected to come from Colleges of a smaller and somewhat more restricted nature.

THE *Oberlin Review* greets us with a strong sensible stock of editorials, prominent among which is one devoted to the formation of an Inter-Collegiate Press Association. There is no doubt but that much good could be accomplished by a confederation of this kind.

Space forbids any further notice

THE MATCH.

My actions in that match between Acadia and Dalhousie having been quite severely and unjustly criticized in the Jan'y issue of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, I feel it my duty to make a short reply. In refusing to abide by the decision of the referee in a certain case, I am stated as being without a rival. I would just like to ask that logical and philosophical meddler, if he has either witnessed or heard the reports of all the matches ever played on this Great Big Earth of ours. He shouldn't make such rash statements. Limited as my own experience is, I have quite often heard the decision of the referee disputed; and, with a little trouble, our friend might discover that a case happened in the matches at Pictou last fall. I have it upon the authority of one of Dalhousie's own students; and, if I mistake not, it appeared in the reports of some of the daily papers. In reply to Dalhousie's captain whether I "would play by the decision of the referee," I said I would not till I understood upon whose (what club's) interpretation he based his decision; upon which he (capt.) retired, even before I had finished the sentence. I was shortly approached by a Dalhousie student, and informed that the Wanderer's gave the rule the interpretation about which we were disputing. And our referee was a Wanderer. The dispute ended and play was resumed. In answer to "Dalhousie, at Acadia's request, asked their best man to leave the team," allow me to state, that before the match began Dal. captain and myself arranged that in case a man of either team got injured, the opposing team should ask one of their men to withdraw—in which, I can see nothing unfair. I understood from a Dal. student, that the same thing was done for them in their matches at Pictou. There was no understand-

ing about the relative *merits* of the men withdrawn ; so if Dalhousie asked her *best* man to retire, it was an unsought courtesy.

Now in regard to the disputes which arose in the matches played at Wolfville a year ago, I will just state their nature. From a scrimmage fearfully close to Dal. goal, the ball was passed to half-back Anderson, who made a "run in." Dal. capt. claimed that the ball was thrown ahead in being passed to the half-back. Acadia disputed it. Dal. refused to play. A compromise was effected by scrimmaging the ball in about the same spot as that where the preceeding scrimmage had taken place. Now if (as Dal. affirms) Acadia received the lion's share, I sincerely sympathize with the poor ass.

The second dispute arose about a catch made by Acadia's man in front of Dal. goal. Acadia claimed a fair catch. Dal. disputed it ; but remember it was Dal. captain alone, for their umpire. knowledge that he did not see it. Now both Acadia's umpire and capt. were within twenty feet of the catch, and both saw it ; also the Dal man off whom the catch was made acknowledged that he struck it. Still Dal. capt. disputed ; and under his official protest alone Acadia kicked the goal. I wish it understood that I am replying to the article in the Dal. *Gazette*, only in so far as I am personally referred to. With the correspondence outside of that I have nothing to do.

J. T. PRESCOTT,
Capt. A. C. F. B. C.

PERSONALS.

H. S. FREEMAN, B. A., '85, is now the popular principal of Baddeck Academy, C. B. His name appears at the head of the list of successful candidates for A. licenses, at the last provincial examination. We congratulate him upon his deserved success.

W. F. KEMPTON who studied with '85 is now the successful principal of the schools at Milton, Yarmouth, N. S.

F. M. KELLY, B. A., '84, has completed a successful term of two years as Prin. of Sunbury Co., Grammar School, N. B., and become a member of the Staff of Horton Academy.

REV. H. MORROW, B. A., '71, is about to return to this country for rest, after ten years service as Missionary in Burmah.

REV. R. S. HUNT, B. A., '79, is the successful pastor of the Baptist Church at St. Stephen, N. B.

THE marriage of Miss Clara B. Marshall, B. A. '84, is inserted in the marriage column.

MISS LANA B. LYONS, '88 is obliged, owing to ill health, to discontinue her studies.

LOCALS.

EXTRAS.

RINK.

SUBSTITUTES.

THE *razz* of the moustache.

GRACIOUS ! why so late fair Sir !

PROFESSORS should be willing to take any little suggestions the boys may throw out even though they be most *gor(e)ing*.

SOPH'S. lucid exposition of the extent of water :—" Water forms three-fourths of everywhere." What do *Hugh* think this argues respecting his brain !

MR. MC. to Mr. F.,—Humming during dinner.

"Look out you will awake the baby !"

MR. F.—"I forgot you were here."

OPEN AIR RINK.

Price of ticket.—"A pound of tea and a chromo." We wish the managers success in their noble enterprise. The high price of ticket is caused by the demand indicated in a local sound below.

CHURCHMAN HALL has an addition. Both *big* and *low* are studying it. However it makes noises and winks its ears in the regulation way. What is it ?

How shall students interpret the following ! 'The Sophomores who prefer may substitute French for Greek,' and 'All the Sophomores must take Greek.'

If tears, prayers or groans can avail, dry not your eyes and let your prayers and groans ascend unceasingly that the present indication of vice may be stayed.—The Freshmen, the hope of future years accost all with, "Have you a *Chaucer* !"

OWING to the late rush of brides, the price of bonnets has increased 33 p. c. For further particulars inquire at the *Millar*-inary repository in the village.

ACCORDING to the rules governing the case the election of Junior Editors has taken place. It resulted in the election of Messrs. C. I. Davidson, H. H. Wickwire and H. W. McKenna.

THE largeness of soul and apprehensive solicitude for the safety of the "Ladies of the Seminary," recently manifested by a certain individual is truly refreshing. We learn from an extremely reliable source, that it has been decided to bestow upon that young man who will manifest the most supreme indifference in regard to paying visits to the Sem. the munificent and enviable reward of "a pound of tea," and a "Chromo." But few of the boys have decided to compete.

VERILY we have fallen upon *granddays*, for "Sweet Violets" greet us on every hand, and at every hour of day and night soul-catching strains float through the corridors suggesting a performance of "FACSR" on some divinely *grand* "Aria" from the old masters. What a pity it is that "Acadia" does not furnish opportunity for the developement of such unmistakable talent as that evinced by certain youthful musicians!

HISTORY repeats itself, with slight changes; hundreds of years ago Scotland had a national hero; he loved his country, was a thorough patriot, did noble things generally, and sad to say was at length—hanged. The scene is changed and now Chipman Hall claims the national er-ah-humbug. Sir Billy with important modifications has remarkable points of analogy to his great namesake, e. g., was born, has grown up, especially around the cheek, and not particularly about the brain; his traits seem to be a cross between clownish boorishness and puerile vagabondism, is not much of a patriot, but loves his dinner with the best of them; last but not least is not hanged.

ACCIDENTS have happened Freshmen before now. Jonah was not a Freshman that we know of, and Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Now Top Flat Jonah christened *The Baron*; unless the whale's taste has become thoroughly depraved, will never suffer this mishap; but several ways have been invented by which a cat may be made "to shuffle off her mortal feathers," and the same would probably apply to other animals, such as dogs or pups. The top flatter though may develop into quite a man sometime; he has no very strong points just at present unless it be his breath at certain times, but then appearances are deceitful, quid dies ferat etc., and this is exactly what we would like our Jonah to bear in mind—granting the latter.

THE following were elected as officers of the Athenæum Society for the second term of this college year:—R. W. Ford, Pres.; H. S. Shaw, Vice Pres.; F. C. Hartley, Cor. Sec'y.; M. S. Read, Rec. Sec'y.; J. L. Healy, Treasurer.

Executive Committee:—W. E. Boggs, (chairman), C. W. Corey, A. E. Shaw, A. W. Foster, D. Duncanson.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Acadia Missionary Society was held on Jan. 19th. A large number were present and the meeting was a success. The retiring treasurer reported that he had forwarded \$25 to the treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Board. Mr. G. P. Raymond read an original paper on "The church's local mission field and work." It proved suggestive and interesting. Rev. S. T. Rind, D. D., L. L. D., followed with an excellent address. He dwelt on his much loved topic of "Missions to our own Indians." The officers of the Society for the current term were elected as follows:—E. L. Gates, Pres'd't.; H. S. Shaw, Vice Pres'd't.; J. H. Jenner, Sec'y.; L. D. Morse, Treasurer; C. W. Corey, C. H. Day, B. A., and Hattie E. Wallace, Literary Com.

RECENTLY a senior during recitation was heard to affirm that the Saxons were in the habit of *throwing up ditches*; and again that "Caesar visited Britain 55 B. C., and again a century after. If he does not believe in ghosts we advise him to *throw up the sponge*."

SOME touching facts were lately *ellis* ited from a cad concern- his departure from *somewhere* near his home at the close of the holidays. He evidently believes the poet's doctrine that

"You should not take a fellow eight years old
And make him swear to never kiss the girls."

FOURTH she walked variously,
In manner precariously,
Over the ice:
While gleamed it fallaciously,
Down she sat graciously,
Testing it twice.

On mystery of mysteries,
How may we thee explain?
When geese and turkeys, chicks and hen
That once by man were slain,
Do test their naked wings and fly
Beyond the reach of ken
And candy, fruit and lemon pie
Go search for them in vain—
Oh how can we the riddle solve
And set men's wondering fancies free?
Sophs. still from window's will revolve,
And Freshmen still with them agree.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

PROF. KEIRSTEAD, \$1; W. A. Rose, \$1; C. H. Fielding, \$1; F. S. Anderson, \$2; J. D. Kaddy, \$1; J. H. Bishop, \$3.50; Dr. McLatchy, \$2.50; G. Payzant, \$1; S. McCully Black, \$2; J. B. Mills, \$2; Silas MacVane \$1; V. Masters, \$1.20; W. E. Pride, \$1; J. Ellis, \$1; J. Morse, \$1; L. Lovett, \$1; J. C. Archibald, \$1; B. W. Lockhart, \$3; J. W. Dewis, \$1; H. H. Wickwire, \$2; C. McIntyre, \$1; A. J. Wallace, \$1; O. C. S. Wallace, \$1; H. W. McKenna, \$1.10; H. Waring, \$1; H. T. DeWolf, \$1; F. S. Messenger, \$1; G. R. White, \$1; B. H. Bently, 50 cents; Rev. G. Goodspeed, \$1; Prof. J. F. Tufts, \$1; Miss Hitchens, \$1; E. A. Crawley, \$1; B. R. Crosby, \$1; Miss A. Fitch, \$1; Miss Crump, \$1; D. H. Simpson, \$3; H. Whidden, \$1; A. McNeill, 40c.; L. D. McCart, \$1; G. V. Rand, \$1; Mrs. Blair, \$1. H. L. Day, Sec.-Treas.

MARRIAGES.

RAYMOND-MARSHALL.—At the residence of James Staratt, Lawrencetown, N. S., Dec. 29th., by the Rev. J. W. Tingley, B. A., Evelyn W. Raymond of New York to Clara B. Marshall, B. A., of Lawrencetown, N. S.

BEST-ROCKWELL.—At the Baptist Church, Wolfville, Jan. 4th., by Rev. T. A. Higgins, D. D., O. F. Best, of Canso, and Bella L. Rockwell, of Wolfville.

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HELEN L. BUTTRICK	<i>Instrumental Music.</i>
JENNIE D. HITCHENS.....	<i>Vocal Music.</i>
LAURA M. SAWYER	<i>Assistant in Instrumental Music.</i>
ELIZA I. HARDING.....	<i>Drawing and Painting.</i>
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C. H. DAY, B. A.	<i>Mathematics.</i>
H. N. SHAW	<i>Elocution.</i>
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