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### Classics in the Elective System.

The Republic of Letters which has for upwards of two centuries enjoyed unbroken peace, seems at last destined to submit to the agitation which revolutionary ideas on the subject of education are bringing about.

In the hands of a number of strenuous opponents to the present system of teaching, a new philosophy seems likely to supersede the theory that has hitherto recognized the efficacy of the classics as a main branch of liberal culture. It is to the mind that these reformers regard as a means of training the youthful student the foremost place as of yore, but, if not entirely to be done away with, at any rate to yield its prominence to a variety of subjects which are thought better adapted to the young philosopher, scientist, moralist, artist, or whatever other class may wish to obtain rudimentary ideas in its own especial branch.

Leaving for the present the question of the worthiness or unworthiness of the effete Latin Grammar to be distinguished by the side of the great modern improvements in elementary school teaching which the above titles imply, let us see in what direction the Commissioners for Education in the twentieth century will develop their new philosophy.

Every one has seen the shilling scientific manuals on physics, chemistry, physiology, etc., which are being daily published, and every one of course recognizes in these the instruments by which the "young idea" will be taught "to shoot;" the text books which are hereafter to take the place of the old grammars, geographies, and perhaps even spelling books. In case there should be found in the reformed school such a prodigy as a young linguist, provision will be made for such a one by the invention of improved Greek and Latin grammars (written in English) with which it will be his laborious task to form a close acquaintance, in spite of the difficulties which beset his path, for very little encouragement is given to such studies in these days.

Matriculated into a college where the elective system prevails, this unambitious youth will be found as at school a solitary exception among his fellow students, devoting his time to the classics with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow—joy at finding that there still exists a professor of what are no longer the *litteræ humaniores*; sorrow to think that his worthy instructor is soon to be dethroned, because it does not pay to support a chair for the benefit of one student per annum. Thus, after a three years' course, undistinguished by scholarships or honours for the only road to these now is through science and art), he will graduate and enter that band of pedants who, living the life of hermits as useless members of society, will do their best to secure the languages of Greece and Rome from perpetual oblivion.

But

"amato quæramus seria ludo."

for though it would seem as if we had already been taking a serious view of the case, yet the fate to which the gloomy picture above depicted would consign the writings of the ancients cannot be denied, (yet as we hope) as anything but mere *ludos*. It cannot would introduce into the schools by reducing the higher education to elementary teaching, will eventually lead to very little attention being devoted to the rudiments of classical learning. For it will be readily admitted that unless the Latin grammar is forced upon boys at school, such a dry subject would never be the natural choice of the youthful mind; and experience shows that such a study begun late in life avails very little in its perfection.

To how many of our undergraduates is it a source of regret that the little care bestowed upon the elements in early life has at a later stage left them at the mercy of the questionable English of Bohn's translations? And when we consider that to obtain a thorough knowledge of Latin and Greek implies ten years' constant application, it will appear that no one who has not carefully studied the classics at school (as of course no one would, under the new system) will continue them as a speciality at a college where these are not a compulsory branch of study. The consequence of which would be that soon the languages of Greece and Rome would cease to be studied at all, and dead would they become indeed.

If this consummation is desired, the new theorists on educational science are of course setting the right way to work, but if it is intended that the classics shall form part of the electives of, instead of being totally abolished from, a college curriculum, then let the Latin and Greek grammars form as much a portion of elementary teaching as ever they did when on them was built up the superstructure of mental culture which enabled men on passing out of their Universities to deal with the practical affairs of life.

But what are the advantages (the disadvantages more easily suggest themselves) of thus making the classics a subordinate instead of, as heretofore, a primary instrument in a liberal education? The process by which these advantages are sought is analogous to that of undermining a magnificent edifice which has withstood the storms of ages for the purpose of erecting on its site a less substantial, but perhaps a more useful building. It is precisely in this light that the plans of the present day look upon a University education, instead of making it subservient to some ulterior object, instead of making it, as it has hitherto been, an instrument of intellectual culture—a means of developing the faculties of the mind.

It is at the element of usefulness (other than that implied in the term liberal), combined with this culture, that they would aim, by giving the useless classics a secondary place in a system which shall be more practical in its tendency than the educational scheme of the past. Those are ready, no doubt, who would at once do away with classical learning; but all will not readily consent to the abolition, or even the partial neglect of the study

of languages which have furnished an endless store of philosophy to the literature of the modern world.

Even if the yet undeveloped science of education should hereafter assign an insignificant place to the Greek and Roman languages, the day is far distant when the ethics of Aristotle, the epics of Homer and Virgil, the histories of Thucydides and Tacitus, and the speeches of Demosthenes and Cicero shall cease to furnish speculation to the philosopher, specimens to the poet, and standards of grace and eloquence to the author and orator. Long will it be, let the lovers of classical lore be well assured, before it shall be said over the noble works of these great men, *Requiescant in pace*.

### The Younger at McGill.

THIRD PAPER.

COLLEGIATE ADVERTISEMENTS.

The study of collegiate advertisements is instructive and amusing. By "collegiate advertisements" we do not mean those glowing and promising prospectuses by which certain universities—for example, The Great Institution for Teaching Everything to Everybody—lure the unwary Freshman to their halls, in search of a knowledge which he does not realize, and of acquirements which he does not attain; for, however amusing the perusal of such documents may be from an outside point of view, the idea of instruction exists much more in the shadow than in the substance. Neither do we refer to those pale blue posters, beautiful in their unadorned simplicity, which grace the college halls before each approaching vacation, and whose bare, brief statements inform us of the result of those examinations for which we have prepared with such fear, and which we have undergone with such trembling; for, however instructive this survey may be to the successful candidate for honours, or to the self-satisfied "pass man," to him who, still fearing his fate, has put it to the touch only to lose it all, the element of amusement finds no place in the statement of the results. We simply mean the advertisements of articles usually supposed to be of peculiar utility to students, which fill the advertising columns of most college journals.

We have a theory, whether a correct one or not, we are not prepared to state, that the character of the students of any college is to be discovered rather from that part of a journal which points out the means of supplying their more natural wants, than from that which offers them mere intellectual pabulum. Indeed, in endeavouring to form a favourable opinion of the undergraduates of certain universities, it is the only opinion that can be entertained; for if one were to judge of the requirements of their minds by the mental food provided by their college journalism, their condition would be considered heart-rending in the extreme. But to take an example of our theory. A journal published in one of those Puritanical states where prohibition reigns supreme, inserts an advertisement from a druggist, who offers to the public notice, "Pure Liquors, when your physician orders them," and adds, apparently as a corollary to the above proposition, that "when indisposed at Prayer-time," you should take a glass of his Vichy or Kissingen water, "and you will then enjoy the exercises." With what a graphic picture of life at that university are we presented? We can see in our mind's eye the facetious Junior, with his forefinger laid aside of his nasal organ, and with a furtive glance over his shoulder in search of Dons, walking down to the cellar of that benevolent druggist, in order to carry out the orders of his esteemed physician. Or we gaze upon the unfortunate Freshman, who, walking with tobacco-scented garments, parched lips, and a throat like a lime kiln, shudders as he thinks of the hard study of the Junior's evening, and hurries across the square to invigorate his enfeebled frame with the grateful Vichy. With what deep veneration must that apothecary be regarded by the dwellers on the Charles!

Or, to take an example of the same theory, though from rather an opposite standpoint, let us look at a Western exchange which urges its readers, and students in particular, to patronize so and so's choice stock of candies, etc. The advertisement, too, is headed with a Latin quotation referring to the necessity of appearing in one's true colours, an exhibition of candour on the part of our Ohio friends, which we beg to assure them, we do not fail to appreciate, and we only wonder that the journal does not set

forth the merits of baby-jumpers and rocking-horses, "specially adapted for use on the College campus."

Again, an Elm City contemporary displays the claims to popularity of a certain tailor, who heads his laudation of his own proficiency by the gratuitous announcement that "Harvard men 'we don't want.'" From the internal evidence contained in several recent articles on the Harvard Football Rules, there exists a strong presumption in our minds that the board of the Sartorial artist, and the editorial chair of the Yale *Record* are occupied by one and the same person. One would imagine that the humanizing influences of University culture would soften and subdue the tailor's irascibility, but they seem only to have added fuel to the flames of his wrath, and in his case, as in that of the great apostle, "much learning hath made him mad."

However, if a classical education has left no traces on the style of the Connecticut tailor, it is easy to perceive its influence on the mind of the barber, who announces himself to a startled public as the proprietor of a "Tonsorial Palace!" And this in Republican America! We beg to submit it to the New York *Herald* as an example of those pernicious tendencies to Caesarism which are undermining the Constitution of the United States.

Some of these advertisements, too, can be used to point a moral, as well as to adorn a tale. Such for instance, is the brief but touching statement of the Livery Stable keeper at Schenectady—"Carriages to let at all hours, day or night, with careful drivers;" and ir mediately below the suggestive addition, "Funerals furnished at short notice!" How quickly it recalls to mind that beautiful passage in the burial service, "In the midst of life we are in death;" and what an encouraging prospect does the proprietor hold out to his patrons! One would fancy that a life insurance agent might effect a thriving business with that man's customers. Verily, to procure an equipage from that stable is to make a covenant with death.

We have but time for one, more example before we are compelled to close. Would it be believed that any respectable College paper would contain the following advertisement? "Absolute divorces procured from courts of different States for desertion, etc. No publicity required, no charge until divorce granted!" It is too much for us—it fairly takes our breath away. We have always considered it rather a remarkable circumstance that we numbered among our undergraduates several married men, notably that venerable patriarch who was popularly supposed to have a couple of dozen sons at different Universities on this continent; but here is a College where there seems absolutely to be a demand for divorces! Perhaps it is strictly necessary; perhaps the College is one of those mixed educational institutions from which so many evils arise, and amongst others may be those that spring from ill-sorted marriages. But we wish they would not publish the fact; we wish that they would cleanse their soiled linen in private. We would imagine that they would have a feeling of shame in letting the record of their failings and follies go before the public. But they seem to experience no such feeling—they are casehardened and toughened, and not only are they "tough," but, as the promise of secesny indicates, they are "devilish sly." College reviewers are fond of christening their exchanges after their larger contemporaries. One is called the *Times*, another the *Danbury News*, of the College press. Would it be going too far to call the journal that inserted the above the "*Police News* of Collegiate journalism?"

### "FOUR YEARS AT YALE."

We had much pleasure in receiving a copy of this exhaustive book on the undergraduate life at Yale, from the author, "A Grad. of '69." We are unable, this month, to publish a *critique*, owing to having had to go up for an examination last week, but we hope in our next issue to review fully this work, which shows us so clearly and forcibly the career of a student at one of the greatest of American Colleges.

The revival of the study of Kant is extending itself to the Universities. Trinity College, Dublin, has just set an example, which might well be followed by Oxford and Cambridge, whose apathy in philosophical studies is surprising. From the careful manner in which this translation's executed, we are led to expect more from Mr. Abbott than the "Theory of Ethics."

### Found the Island.

To the last number of the GAZETTE I contributed an article on "Canoes and Canoeing," in the course of which I mentioned a voyage which I had made round the Island of Montreal the preceding fall. Thinking that a description of this trip might be useful, and perhaps interesting, to intending canoeists, I have written the following account of my experiences on that occasion:

One beautiful moonlight night in the beginning of October, F—, E—, and I started from the Richelieu Company's pier and pulled up to the foot of the Lachine Canal. Surmounting the two locks here by a portage, we proceeded on our way, and alternately rowing and portaging, reached Lachine about half-past one in the morning. It had been our intention to camp for the night on Isle Dorval, about two miles above; but on emerging from the canal we found a steamer towing several barges, and also making for the mouth of the Ottawa. Unwilling to lose such a good opportunity of avoiding an 18 or 20-mile pull against the stream next morning, and of saving a good deal of time, we made fast our tow-line, and to the last of these, and after a late supper, or an early breakfast, whichever it pleases the reader to call it, we settled ourselves as comfortably as possible in the bottom of the boat, F— and E— going to sleep, and I alternately dozing and keeping watch over our tow-line. As day dawned we entered the mouth of the Ottawa, and arrived at Ste. Anne just as the sun appeared above the horizon. A flock of ducks passed overhead, but, as a matter of course, our gun was stowed away and unloaded, and they flew by with impunity. The steamer and barges had to go through the lock at this place, and would probably be detained an hour or two; so we cast off reached the head of the rapid and emerged into the Lake of the Two Mountains. Our stomachs beginning to inform us that it was high time for breakfast, a search was instituted for provisions, but a sufficient quantity not being found to satisfy our cravings, we steered for the little village of Vaudreuil, about two miles off, and having obtained enough for our present wants, we rowed out to a little island near by and prepared for breakfast.

A flock of ducks had been observed on the other side of a little point running out into the lake, and while tea was boiling F— started off to try and get a shot at them; creeping stealthily along he got within range, and was about to deal out death and destruction among them when a gruff voice called out to him to "hold;" and he awoke to the fact that the ducks were decoys, and that the voice was that of a member of the shooting party to whom the ducks belonged.\*

F— returned crestfallen and sheepish to his breakfast, which, however, he ate with undiminished appetite, almost consuming our newly obtained provisions. After a good rest we started for the north shore of the lake, which we reached after a hard pull of two or three hours against a strong head wind and considerable sea. As we turned down the outlet, however, the wind went down, until it finally became quite calm. Another couple of hours brought us to the first rapid, a descent of about ten feet—on an island at the head of which we stopped for dinner, and immediately afterwards shot the rapid in grand style. A mile or two below we landed at St. Eustace, and renewed our stock of provisions, which had altogether succumbed before F—'s prowess at dinner time. On again, through a beautiful maze of islands, the woods on which were clothed in all their gorgeous autumn colours, and running occasional races with a log canoe manned by two inebriated French Canadians, we reached, about six in the evening, the village of St. Rose, and on an island about two miles below we camped for the night, having accomplished about 30 miles since leaving Ste. Anne. Drawing our boat upon shore, we turned it bottom upwards, lit a fire in front, and after a hearty supper resigned ourselves to sleep. The weather had been beautiful during the day, but it now became very cold, and commenced to rain slightly, so that any one allowing his legs to stray too far out from the shelter of the upturned boat was obliged to wake himself up and stick them underneath again; but we soon got accustomed to these trifles, and awoke refreshed, although E— grumblingly declared he had not slept more than two hours during the night. To our disappointment we found that the clouds which had made themselves so disagreeable the night before had not yet dispersed, and we had rather a disagreeable day of it, although it did not actually rain

much. Starting about nine we descended several small rapids, but met with nothing serious until we came to Terrebonne, where which place we had unfortunately taken a wrong channel; here we came to a high dam extending completely across the river, and below it a long shallow rapid extending for nearly a mile below, and impassable for our heavy boat. There was nothing for it but to work up the river again and to regain the main channel, which, after some hard work, poling, wading and tracking we succeeded in doing. Descending this to the town we found a similar dam; but the water below, although very rapid, was deeper and more practicable than before. Hauling our boat round the dam we launched it again below, and descended another quarter of a mile. Here, however, we came to a heavy rapid formed by the two main channels meeting and rushing together over an inclined plane, and so thickly studded with huge boulders that the descent was a very risky one for such an unwieldy craft as ours. To portage, however, would have been a heavy piece of work, and we had already lost considerable time; so, after a careful study of the position of the principal rocks and the direction of the currents between them, I steered out from the shore, and we were soon plunging through the broken water at a great rate. About half way down, a huge, half-sunken rock appeared directly in our course, which my bowman, E—, did not perceive in time to prevent our striking. By our united efforts, however, we succeeded in turning the boat's head sufficiently to weight on the opposite gunwale canted her sufficiently to free her, and, running the remainder of the rapid in safety, we were much relieved to find no damage, beyond a few scratches, had been sustained. Another mile of swift water brought us to the head of navigation, and we left the rapids behind for good. A short distance below Terrebonne we stopped for dinner. During some revolver practice in the morning we had accidentally shot a tame duck, and fearing that the feelings of the owner would be wounded if he came and found it lying dead on the water, we brought it along with us, and now roasted and divided it, receiving the carcass—a remarkably lean one—and F— and E— securing a leg and wing each, F—, in consideration of his superior appetite, and of his having plucked and cleaned the bird, getting the neck in addition. The cookery was not of much difference. Having despatched this delicate morsel, and a bull in a field behind us beginning to be more familiar than we thought necessary, we deemed it advisable to leave, and accordingly started on our long pull for Montreal. As we rounded the "Bout de l'Isle," however, it became pretty dark, and after ascending the St. Lawrence about three miles, it became so cold, windy and dark that I determined to land and continue our journey next morning. We accordingly pulled ashore, lit a fire, had our tea, and turned in for the night, making ourselves as warm and comfortable as circumstances would permit.

A dissipated dog returning to his home about midnight, and startled by the unwonted apparition of an upturned boat with three recumbent forms underneath it, set up a loud barking and woke us all up. Hearing, however, some muttered remarks, such as "put a bullet through him," &c., and seeing E—'s head appearing over the gunwale, apparently with the intention of putting this threat into execution, he beat a precipitate retreat, and left us to our slumbers. Awakening about three in the morning I found that the sky was clear, the moon shining brightly, and that the wind had gone down, and decided on an immediate start. After a long and tedious pull against the powerful current of the St. Lawrence we reached Montreal about eight, having accomplished the circuit of about 100 miles in sixty hours. We were rather tired, but on the whole well satisfied with our trip.

To any one attempting this tour I would recommend the Back River or Rivière des Prairies to the south of Isle Jesus to that which we took to the north of that island, as there are no barriers or dams across it such as we found at Terrebonne.

Our boat was an ordinary clinker-built skiff, which behaved tolerably well even in rapids; its great weight, however, made it difficult to portage. In running a rapid I used to take a paddle in the stern, E— another in the bow, while F— held the sculls amidships, ready to give a stroke backwards or keep her pretty well under control. With a "Rob Roy" canoe apiece, however, we could have completed the circuit in less time and with far less fatigue.

H. K. W.

\* F— requests me to state that the ducks were tame, living ones, used as decoys, and that therefore his mistake was pardonable.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

MY DEAR GAZETTE.—Thanks to the kindness of a friend, I have just received your interesting December number, and I am gratified to learn therefrom that your bold journalistic effort has been sufficiently successful to require the doubling of your columns. Now, though you have so much more space than formerly I feel justified in offering you a second sketch.

This time my theme is more jovial, viz: a general "comers" in honour of our new and retiring professors. The celebration was held on the 4th ult. Of course it commenced with one of those torchlight processions so dear to German students. We assembled at one of the town gates at 5.30 p.m., in our work-day miners' dress. The torches were soon distributed, and preparations made for the march. The order of procession was as follows:—The civic brass band; the flag of the Academy surrounded by its guard, dressed as on the former occasion; then the several corps flags with guards dressed in parade costume, instead of the evening dress previously worn, and an open carriage containing our committee, closed the show. The corps parade costume consists of a very small round, low cloth cap, mystically embroidered with silver; a short patrol jacket of distinctive colour, and richly decorated with the appropriate braid, and white trousers which are usually protected with long boots. Long gauntlets are worn, and drawn swords, when on such special duty. Our committee enjoyed the one swell carriage of Freiberg; and they marked the importance of the occasion by having four horses guided by German jockeys, in patent leather plug hats, and all the rest of their absurd costume. These various objects of art were duly escorted and guarded by us motley polyglot students.

The band struck up a lively quickstep, and we moved off. We went first to the residence of Prof. Richter (the famous authority on the blow-pipe) who has recently been elevated to the position of Vice-Director of the Academy. The committee entered. Presently the Professor's jolly round face appeared at a ventilator, and he caught a very bad cold whilst shouting inaudible German moral saws to a sadly inattentive audience. We gave three "hochs" for the academy and three for Richter. The drums rolled, the horses made their jockeys very uncomfortable, and we moved on towards the next house. There and elsewhere the ceremony was repeated; but at one Professor's house things got mixed. He lived on a corner, and we all assembled in the wrong street, imagining ourselves to be before his windows. The old gentleman, meanwhile, was craning his head out of a window round the corner, and wondering where we were. At last he was fairly compelled to put on his hat and coat and sally round the corner after us. In the general desire to hurry on, we heard very little of his original ideas on the benefits of study and his sanguine dreams of the future awaiting students who attended eight o'clock lectures regularly, and never "sloped" the grinds. We put him carefully back in his house and then hurried on to the market place before the town hall. There we formed the sacred ring, threw our torches into the middle and sang "*Gaudeamus igitur*" as they slowly expired under a canopy of dense pine smoke.

Then the flags were escorted to their quarters by their respective guards, whilst the rest of us hurried home to try and wash off our sooty stains previous to the evening's festivities. On arriving at the scene of action, I found two miners stationed as sentries at the door. Their solemn look and beery flavour made me think of "mut's." They were attired in the ancient Saxons miners' costume. It differs from the one now in vogue, chiefly in the size of the "bergleder," which descended almost to the heels. In these degenerate days it scarcely reaches the knee. They were also provided with leathern knee caps, long since fallen into disuse, and their white cotton caps (worn beneath thick felt ones)—were voluminous enough to resemble monks' cowls more than anything else.

The rooms were tastefully decorated with evergreens, from amongst which glittered here and there mining ornaments; and the shields and banners of the rival corps were proudly displayed. At one side of the ante-room stood a long table, whereon were handsomely displayed a row of beer barrels tastefully decorated with evergreens. In the centre of the room was a suggestive stack of huge beer glasses. We placed our outer garments in a convenient corner, and crossed to the hall itself. There the professors and students strolled about together, and exchanged

greetings until the chairman (the president of the presiding corps) gave the signal for us to seat ourselves. This was done in a very promiscuous fashion about three long bare tables; whereof the two subordinate ones were gracefully presided over by other members of the committee. It struck me as a novelty to see them use their naked swords as chairmen's hammers.

Every guest was provided with a copy of songs and a beer glass. The first song was soon called for, and the orchestra got heartily hissed because the started the wrong tune. That was soon rectified, and we rendered the favourite old kniping song in most convivial style. As we finished the last quaver of the appropriate refrain "*ergo bibamus*" the student next me complained that he had never yet met a fellow capable of translating it. I did my best to solve the conundrum; but I could not help wondering what sort of society he had previously lived in. The evening passed on with a curious medley of toasts, speeches and songs. Von Cotta, the geologist, seemed happy when he found his turn to speak. It was a curious sight to see his massive grey head towering above the audience, as he dexterously waved his beer glass to point his rapid jokes at the expense of his colleagues. His speech was the best of the evening. But I was supporting a deputy chairman at the other end of the hall, and caught only fragments of it. His humorous description of one of our grey-headed professors' first attempts to smoke, was highly appreciated by such a sympathetic audience. When he finished, by draining his glass to the Freiberg "studenten schauf," he was surrounded by a crowd of students, all eager to clink glasses and drink with him. Innumerable cigar cases were produced, to afford Prof. Heuchler an opportunity of displaying his dearly bought skill. Some of the professors on returning thanks, &c., avoided confusion by making the tour of the hall to clink glasses with the students, and to drink in comradeship with them. I was carried away by the novelty of the scene, and brandished my glass as freely, and shouted "hoch!" as loudly as the veterans of the corps themselves.

All lectures were suspended next day; and if report speaks true, some of the professors benefited as much by the holiday as did the students themselves. One American, who had previously denounced in unmeasured terms the deep drinking inevitable in such a comers, confessed to me afterwards that he recollected trying to waltz round the room at two a.m. Then all became a blank, and remained so until he woke up next morning with a "bad mouth" and a curious feeling as though he had not been in bed at all. This latter was accounted for by his unknown benefactor that took him home, having neglected to take his long water boots off before tumbling him under his feather bed.

Hoping that you can find space for this second scene of student life in Germany,

I remain,

Your well-wisher,

J. F. T.

FREIBERG, 10th Jan., 1874.

AN OXFORD CUSTOM.—On Christmas Day the Oxford men kept up an old custom: that of bringing into hall the boar's head, at Queen's College, Oxford. The custom is said to have originated in 1350, to commemorate the following circumstance: An undergraduate of that time while walking in Shotover forest, was attacked by a wild boar. Thrusting the book he was reading *Aristotelis Ethica*, down the brute's throat, he exclaimed *Græcum est* and vanquished the animal. The head of the boar this year weighed 60 lbs., and was borne in on a salver, carried on the shoulders of two men—a clergyman singing the solo, and the choir the chorus of the song, which we subjoin as much for the edification of the curious, as an example of in different metre:—

*Caput apri deferso*  
*Reddens laudes Domino*  
The boar's head in hand bear I,  
With garlands gay and rosemary,  
I pray you all sing merrily.

*Qui estis incuriosus.*  
This boar's head I understand  
Is the chief service in this land;  
Look wherever it is found

*Servet cum caribos.*  
Be glad, with more and less,  
For this hath ordained our steward  
To cheer you all this Christmas,  
The boar's head and the mustard;  
*Caput apri deferso,*  
*Reddens laudes Domino.*

### The Society's Lectures.

During the month that has just gone by the Society has presented to Montreal audiences—and large ones, too—Dr. Hayes, the explorer, and De Cordova, the humorist. In the last GAZETTE we gave a slight sketch of Dr. Hayes, and the results in the way of explorations he had accomplished, and now it is too late to give anything but a meagre outline of his lectures. The first night his lecture, or, perhaps, more correctly, for he is an *extempore* speaker, his "talk" was on what had been accomplished by previous explorers to the North, and a short outline of the theories held in regard to the open Polar Sea, and the formation of icebergs. The next evening, he described his own expeditions, and principally the one in the schooner "United States." On this occasion Lord Dufferin was present, and the lecturer gracefully alluded to his yacht, the "Foam," as the little vessel which made the most gallant dash at the Arctic ice known in the history of Northern exploration. Among the audience, too, was a gentleman who, about fifty years ago, had sailed in Inglefield's expeditions to the North, and who, on the succeeding evening, while Dr. Hayes was exhibiting his views, bore witness to the great fidelity which characterized them. The lecture, the third evening, was on the Esquimaux, and all were illustrated by the stereopticon.

The chief feature in Hayes' style as a lecturer is the power of vivid description which he possesses, and which he employed freely on each occasion, giving his audience as perfect an idea of the phenomena or scene he is describing as is possible for words to convey. When the circumstances are such as to present anything of a ludicrous or humorous character, he is particularly happy, and few passages in his lectures were more so than his account of an Esquimaux wedding, and of life on board the ship in the long Arctic winter. Without a regular lecture, he has the faults inherent in speaking extemporaneously and as long as he can hold his audience. He is apt to ramble in his talk and to disregard the unities of his discourse. However, we are not disposed to criticize his lectures; they were to us the sources of too much pleasure and information to allow us to dwell too severely on the various details of his style. In any case a man who professes only to tell what he has seen and accomplished is in a different position from the "professional," whose half-dozen lectures are to him merely a stock in trade, and a man who has accomplished so much for science as Dr. Hayes, and who tells his story in so graphic and modest a manner as Dr. Hayes, fulfills as far as possible our idea of what an earnest lecturer should be. Should his desire to go out again be accomplished, we trust that he will succeed in his object and return again to tell us his story of the discovery of the North Pole.

During the last week the Society introduced to us De Cordova, the humorist. Of course, as a general thing, we do not approve of their presenting to us lecturers whose sole object is to amuse, but in a course which comprises so many eminent names in science and literature, it is quite proper that one man should be included whose lecture is not to instruct, and that the audience appreciated this fact was evident from the fact that on each occasion the house was crowded. When we speak of a man whose sole object was to amuse, we refer to such speakers as De Cordova; for a lecture, even nominally amusing may contain much that is instructive, but De Cordova is not a deep enough satirist to combine both objects. You go to his lecture and laugh at "Mrs. Grundy" and the hypocrites of "Our New Clergyman," but each one present feels that he knows before that what he laughs at heartily is mean and despicable. A high humorist would have directed his satire in a different way, and while affording an equal amount of amusement would have combined with it instruction as well. We cannot expect every man to be a Thackeray, and as the speaker we refer to made no such pretensions, we cannot

dwell on his failing to reach a standard to which he does not profess to aspire. We went there—were amused as much by his manner as the matter of his lecture, and if his lectures do not read as well as they sound, we must remember that we experienced pleasure at the time, and be thankful for it. But we may also express the wish that it might have been of a higher order.

The remaining lecturers of the course promise well, and by reference to our advertising columns it may be seen that they will have the pleasure of listening to such eminent men as Phillips and Kingsley, Parsons and Bolles.

### A New Deaf.

As the risen Sun brought to Day, new-born,  
A release from the train of Night,  
There was seen a gem on the brow of Morn,  
All aflame with a rainbow light.

Oh beautiful gem! it was born of Night,  
But it loved the Sun's bright gleam;  
And it flash'd out there with a joyous light,  
When embraced by a brilliant beam.

But the beam so loved was a treacherous mate,  
Tho' it thrill'd with a warm embrace,  
It returned the love with a waning fate,  
And it soon made void the place.

Other fate I'd seek for a loving friend  
Than that of the drop of dew,  
I would fill her soul with the life I'd send  
By a love-warmth, pure and true.

By affection's glow I would make her strong;  
I would freshen her every grace  
Tho' her heart—as pure as the dew from wrong—  
I would lighten with joy her face.

I would have her, too, be a Gem of Morn,  
In the changelass Land above;  
That the victor-crown she might help adorn,  
Of the Lord of eternal Love.

Pres. Coll.,  
Jany. 12th, 1874.

W. M. MCK.

MM. ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN are now writing a new serial story, which will shortly appear in *Cassell's Magazine*. It will be entitled "The College Life of MAITRE WABLOU," and will be based on the adventures of a young collegian during the LOUIS PHILIPPE era. Here is a sketch of the two best known literary co-partners in France: "If one were to judge from appearances, few men are more unlike each other than MM. ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN. The latter is of middle height; he is very dark, and his complexion rather swarthy. He looks more like a portrait of VELASQUEZ than like an Alsatian ERCKMANN in his physical antithesis. He is a tall and rather bulky man, with a broad, full, smiling face, and eyes sparkling with gaiety and joy behind their gold spectacles. His manners are supremely frank and hearty. M. CHATRIAN is cold, reserved, almost icy in his way; M. ERCKMANN is as expressive as possible. He may be seen occasionally in a certain *brasserie* of the Rue du Faubourg Montmartre. He is a joyful companion, a great beer-drinker, and when he leaves the *brasserie* at night his table is covered with empty cups, for his absorption of beer, while smoking his large Dutch pipe, recalls TENIER'S 'Kermesses.' He is very gay, affable, and kind, and seems profoundly convinced that there is no greater happiness for a man who has worked hard during the day than to converse in the evening with old friends, smoking a large pipe and drinking numerous glasses of fresh Strasbourg beer. He is, in truth, just what the reader would imagine him to be from his works: This evening *far niente* in the *brasserie* is his only recreation; but the greatest events would hardly induce him to give it up when 7 o'clock strikes. The writer of these lines remembers how, on the first night of Erckmann-Chatrian's drama, '*Le Juif Polonais*,' he found Erckmann sitting as usual in the *brasserie*. When asked the reason of his absence from the theatre on so important an occasion, Erckmann replied: 'Oh! Chatrian is there; and besides,' he added, smiling, 'I know the drama.'"

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE,

*Published by the Undergraduates of McGill University  
on the First of every month of the Session.*

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

J. S. McLENNAN, G. H. CHANDLER,  
STUART JENKINS, AND E. LAFLUR.  
JOHN D. CLINE, R. A.  
W. SIMPSON WALKER.

The GAZETTE requests contributions of tales, essays, and all suitable literary matter from University men. It will open its columns to any controversial matter connected with the College, provided the communications are written in a gentlemanly manner.

All matter intended for publication must be accompanied by the name of the writer in a sealed envelope, which will be opened if the contribution is accepted, but will be destroyed if rejected. This rule will be strictly adhered to.

All literary matter must be in the hands of the committee on the 15th of each month, unless special arrangements are made with the committee before that date.

## SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

W. B. DAWSON, TREASURER. J. S. HALL, SECRETARY.

## The Literary Society's Rooms.

About two years ago, when it was considered most advisable that the Society should no longer occupy rooms in the University buildings, the Mercantile Library Association were kind enough to place at the disposal of the Society a room in their building, on St. Catherine street. This room the Society has occupied for the past two sessions; but the time has come when the Association require the above for their own use, and the Society are under the necessity of seeking for some other building where, in the future, they may hold their meetings. It is, we are sure, grateful to the Mercantile Library for the courtesy extended to it at a time when it was at a loss where to turn for assistance; but it must have recognized the fact that they were labouring under a disadvantage in not having rooms under their own control. Events have now come naturally about when the Society must find another place of meeting, and we wish to offer to it some suggestions as to what appears to us the best way for them to accomplish the object.

The Society are now strong in point of numbers, and, if we are not mistaken, are in a financial position to carry into effect the scheme we would propose. We consider that they should obtain a suite of rooms in a favourable locality, which they would exclusively hold. They should be extensive enough to give them a hall for debates, a reading room, and whatever other apartments they might consider desirable; and among them we would consider that in process of time a library should be added.

That this course would be advisable is proved by the fact that a society of its strength is in a false position in occupying rooms at the sufrage of another corporation, and while at one time it was the only course open to it, it has since grown so much in numbers and influence that even did the necessity not arise from external circumstances we would say that the Society would now be justified in seeking for new rooms. We consider that a reading room would be an advantage because among the many influences that have contributed to the growth in numbers of the Society, the circumstance of their meeting where they had the use of so good a reading room was a prominent one, by holding out an additional inducement to members to attend the meetings of the Society. The same line of reasoning is applicable also to the proposal that the Society should have a

library for the purposes of reference in debate to authorities, and, of course, the advantage it would be to the members to have an historical and philosophical library at their disposal. That this much is feasible at the present we consider to be apparent to all acquainted with the resources of the Society. The initial expenses would not be beyond the power of the Society to defray out of the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, which, judging by the success of their lectures, must be a handsome one, and the ordinary running expenses could be defrayed by the annual subscriptions of the members. In this connection we may say that to us the subscription, as fixed at present, appears altogether too small as compared with the advantages offered. Surely the sum a man pays for a seat at a concert is a small one for which to obtain the advantages of a literary society, which, in addition, gives him tickets to twenty lectures by the best talent the Society can secure at any cost, at the rate of ten cents a lecture, if he be a graduate; or if a student, at the ridiculously small charge of five cents.

If the scheme were put into execution, and succeeded as favourably as we anticipate it would, the Society might extend its borders so as to give itself reception rooms, to be used on the occasion of the advent of those distinguished speakers who will in the future address Montreal audiences under its auspices, and also for the purposes of conversations, etc. It is now a nucleus of intellectual culture and growth for the city, and the possession of rooms of its own would add much to its power to extend and elevate its influence, first, by increasing its membership, and so its influence over the members; and, secondly, by giving it additional means of exerting an influence on those outside its membership.

The advantages to itself would be those we have already indicated, and also a large increase to its membership,—not only, we think, would more students attend, but that many of the graduates who now never come to its meetings would then identify themselves with its interests. But few of the alumni of the University in town belong to it, and the burden of work has been left to a few men who, with the assistance of the students, have brought it, by unwearied efforts, to its present state of efficiency. In the future, we trust, this will be changed, and we consider this project, if it ever be carried out, will have much to do with this desirable result. It would also be an advantage to the University, because it would afford a favourable opportunity for the students of the different Faculties to meet on a common ground, and in that way do much to promote a wider feeling of *esprit de corps* than now exists. It would also benefit the University in that it would supplement its training and do much to elevate and expand our intellectual growth, and by this draw both students and alumni nearer to their college; and the strongest support a college can have, and without which she must be weak, is that of her graduates and students.

We have before us the *London Evening Herald*, of the 19th containing a lecture delivered in London on the 17th ult., by Prof. Wilkins, of Helmuth College, on "He made the Stars Also." Mr. Wilkins has given us a very interesting paper. He must claim, if not originality, at least a rare power both in the collocation of scattered pieces of information, and also in the peculiar generalizations necessary in a popular lecture. We congratulate Mr. Wilkins on the success of his effort, and beg leave to recommend it to all who are interested in the spread of scientific information among the people.

As several of our subscribers have not yet remitted their annual subscription, we would request them to do so immediately. We do not add the dire penalty "and avoid costs," but assure our friends that the GAZETTE is by no means a pecuniary success, and that in doubling its size we are relying upon the prompt payment of old subscriptions.

### Exchanges.

We have before us the January and February numbers of *The Owl*. The articles, as a rule, are weak, and the constant harping upon religious subjects becomes very tiresome; yet the kindly disposition displayed by the "Bird of Wisdom" makes us sorry to be obliged to say anything disagreeable.

The *Harvard Advocate* is filled with reports of clubs, committees, etc., of little interest to an outsider. The lack of articles on literary subjects is somewhat striking.

In the two numbers of the *Cornell Times* lying upon our table we cannot find one article worthy of notice.

Of our exchanges, the *Cornell Era* is the best written and most interesting. We always welcome its advent, certain of finding some article worthy of perusal.

We have before us the four February numbers. The first opens with a paper upon the "History of Stenography and Phonography;" the subject is continued in the number of the 5th February. There is also a manly article upon "Ponying" (copying at examinations). We can congratulate ourselves upon our comparative freedom from this disgraceful trick. Also, a short notice of the Shakespearian Society newly organized in London, of which the President of the United States is the Patron, and the Crown Princess of Prussia Patroness. "These patronymics, however," says the *Era*, "savour too much of servility to suit American tastes." This somewhat surprised us, who were under the apparently false impression that titles were more highly prized in the States than in any other country. The object of the society is thus signalized: "to make a thorough study of Shakespeare's works by the chronological method; to track out the growth of his mind and of his art by means of the succession of the plays; then the issue of a student's hand-book of Shakespeare, to be followed by a new and carefully edited edition of his works, prefaced by a new life."

We clip the following from the paper headed "The Newspaper as an Educator:"—"Good habits of reading, like good methods of study, are slow to be acquired, but when gained repay the effort by rich results of culture and knowledge. It is so easy to become the dupe of our own fancy, to believe that we are taking great strides in the field of knowledge, and gathering the fruits of science, when we are really enjoying the flowers by the wayside. More time is wasted by this species of self-deception than by any other means. Time which ought to be used in physical training is consumed in lounging over books or papers, while the attention vacillates between the printed page and the busy street before you, and the result is a feeling of languor and dissatisfaction."

"Time Spent in Composing" is the heading of another article, consisting principally of anecdotes of celebrated literati.

Notwithstanding our former quotations from this paper, we cannot resist the temptation of citing the following lines, the truth of which every one must have felt:—

"To the lover of books nothing is more tantalizing than to enter a large library, to see the rows of finely bound volumes almost within reach, and yet be debarred from entrance to the alcoves and personal inspection of the books. When we see a forlorn student scowling at an unconscious post-graduate browsing peacefully among folios and quartos, we know that the former is consumed by envy. Who has not felt the indefiniteness of the catalogue description; by this method the recognition of what we want is as unsatisfactory as a book ordered by mail, or a new suit of clothes from our tailor. Neither affords you half the pleasure you anticipated. Very ludicrous mistakes frequently occur in large libraries where one is obliged to depend solely on the catalogue. One of the funniest instances on record occurred lately at the British Museum. It seems that a gentleman by the name of Tucker found in the catalogue of the library, under the head of "Histories," a work by a namesake of his. Prompted

by a desire to see what peculiar turn this Tucker had given to the threads of history, he ordered it from one of the librarians. It took two hours to run the book down, and when triumphantly produced by the assistant, it proved to be "The History of Little Tom Tucker."

The sound sense of the following anecdote, for which we are indebted to the *Chronicle*, will recommend itself to all alike—seniors and juniors:—

"A Senior stuffing for examination has developed the ethics of Sunday work in a way to render further elucidation unnecessary. He reasons that if the Lord justifies a man for trying to help the ass from the pit on the Sabbath day, much more would He justify the ass for trying to get out himself."

The *Vale Courant* contains little of interest.

We also acknowledge the receipt of the following exchanges, and which space forbids us from noticing at greater length:—*Helmuth College Journal*, *Queen's College Journal*, *Beloit College Monthly*, *University Missourian*, *Georgetown College Journal*, *Galt Collegiate Times*, *The Aurora*, *Alumni Journal*, *Pittsburgh College Journal*.

### Literary Items.

The Literary Philosophical Society of the Presbyterian College hold their first conversazione on the 10th inst.

There are about 1,900 students at Edinburgh this session to 1,873 last.

A new book by Prof. LEWIS is announced on "Problems of Life and Mind," being, we understand, an attempt to solve some questions in regard to the religions of the new school of philosophy, of which he is an exponent.

RIBAT, Professor in the University of France, has published a book on "Contemporary English Psychology." We hope that he will not misapprehend our philosophy as some of his countrymen, e. g., Cousin, have done in so flagrant, and apparently so unjustifiable, a manner.

The *Spectator* says of the new serial in the *Cornhill*: "If 'Far from the Maddening Crowd' is not written by GEORGE ELIOT, then there is a new light among novelists;" and proceeds to give a short analysis of it. We hope there is one, or a new story from the 'only great living novelist,' as the above authority, not given to compliments as a rule, styles GEORGE ELIOT.

The Cambridge mathematical examinations for the Tripos, took place during the month of January, the last one being on the 30th. One hundred and twenty candidates presented themselves, fifteen more than in 1873.

At the preliminary degree examination, or 'little go,' at Cambridge, a candidate from Girton College, the new college for women, gained a first-class, and another passed in the extra course, which includes algebra, trigonometry, and mechanics.

Messrs. Langman's & Co. are about to publish another posthumous volume of John Stuart Mill. An exhaustive work on "Human Nature," by such a thinker, is, at the present day, very much to be desired, but we fear that the forthcoming work will prove to be little more than an introductory essay. Thinking men, however, who have just arisen from the perusal of the Autobiography, will look forward with great interest to the reception of this new contribution to morals.

The introduction to the new mathematical method of Quaternions by Professors Kelland and Tait will supply a want which has been felt for some time.

Prof. Balfour Stewart has given a valuable contribution to popular science in his "Conservation of Energy." We are disposed, however, to believe that the too familiar and conversational style throughout the book, and especially in the illustrations, will detract from the pleasure which the student will derive from its perusal.

## Athletic Notes.

*Exercitium*—naturæ dormientis stimulum, membrorum solatium, morborum medela, fugæ vitiorum, medicina languorum, distractio omnium malorum.  
Barton.—Anat. Melanch.

**FOOTBALL.**—It seems strange to us, surrounded by the icy bounds of winter, to read of the activity of the athletes in the "tight little Island," more especially on the football fields and the river. In England football is essentially the winter game of the "wielders of the willow," and sceptics are beginning to acknowledge that, if only aided by fine weather, it is a game to be classed among the leading pastimes of the day. The great international match between England and Scotland (played according to the Rugby Union Rules) was to take place to-day, Monday, February 23rd, at Kennington Oval, beginning at 2:30 p. m. This is *par excellence* the football match of the season, and the practice for it is immense. No less than 140 candidates offered themselves, and the representative twenty had to be chosen after a series of trial matches.

On the 26th February the annual general meeting of the Rugby Football Union is to be held, and several proposed amendments to the rules are to be brought forward. Mr. Innes Currey has promised to send us a copy of the amendments and a description of the international match. This gentleman, who is Honorary Secretary of the Rugby Football Union, writes in answer to the enquiry regarding the winning kick at our Athletic Meeting, "As to your question whether a placekick of fifty-four yards would be considered good, I should say that it depended upon the position from which it was kicked. \* \* \* If it was kicked from straight in front I should think it rather a long kick, but not much else." And this reminds us of a famous try at goal last year; we quote from *Bell's Life*:—

"Almost directly after this Freeman made a fair catch, about 40 yards in front of the Scottish goal, and the distance appearing hopeless for a place kick it was determined that he should drop at goal; and a truly magnificent try he made; but, the fickle wind failing England at the pinch, the ball curled in its course too late, and passed exactly over the top of the post, though so close was it that a tremendous cheer burst from the English Twenty, in expectation of a favourable result. But the verdict of the English umpire went forth, 'A poster,' and his decision was endorsed by three or four of the steward, who were standing behind him."

In regard to the game played at American colleges, we have had letters from Yale, and from Capt. Grant of the Harvard F. B. C., explanatory of their own particular rules and modes of play. As we ourselves play the Rugby game, which differs *in toto* from the game played at these colleges, we are not in a position to decide as to the merits of the respective styles.

**CRICKET.**—The news just now is rather slim; the most interesting being notes of the trip of the English Eleven to the Antipodes. In connection with this subject we extract from John Wisden's Cricketer's Almanack for 1874, a list of the three English Twelves who have visited Australia:—

## THE THREE ENGLISH TWELVES WHO HAVE VISITED AUSTRALIA.

H. H. STEPHENSON'S IN 1861-2.

H. H. Stephenson, (Capt.)	William Muirie,	Charles Lawrence,
George Bennett,	Edward Stephenson,	William Mortlock,
William Caffyn,	Roger Iddison,	Thomas Sewell, Jr.,
George Griffith,	Thomas Hearne,	George Wells.

They left England, Oct. 18, 1861. They played 12 matches in Australia.

Won..... 6 Lost..... 2 4 were unfinished.

*The largest innings played by this Eleven in Australia was 105 v. 18 of Victoria at Melbourne. Their first match in Australia England won by an innings and 60 runs.*

## GEORGE PARR'S IN 1863-54.

George Parr (Capt.)	Robert Carpenter,	John Jackson,
George Anderson,	Alfred Clarke,	Thomas Lockyer,
Julian Casar,	Mr. E. M. Grace,	George Tarrant,
William Caffyn,	Thomas Hayward,	R. C. Tuley.

They left England Oct. 13, 1863. They played 16 matches in Australia.  
Won..... 10 Lost..... None. 6 were unfinished.

*The largest innings played by this Eleven in Australia was 310 v. 22 of Ballarat, at Ballarat.*

## MR. W. G. GRACE'S IN 1873-74.

Mr. W. G. Grace (Capt.)	Mr. G. F. Grace,	James Lillywhite,
Mr. F. H. Bault,	Andrew Greenwood,	Martin McIntyre,
Mr. J. A. Bush,	Richard Hampshire,	William Oestoff,
Mr. W. Gilbert,	Henry Jupp,	James Southcroft.

They left England (Southampton) in the "Mirazapore," on the 23rd of October, 1873.

Up to date we have only learned the result of five matches, and the details being transmitted by telegraph are necessarily scanty. The first match came off at Melbourne, against eighteen of Victoria, and although Mr. Grace made 51 runs, *not out*, yet the eighteen won in one innings by 20 runs. The second match was begun on New Year's Day, *weather hot and ground dry*; this was with twenty-two of Ballarat; 744 runs were scored, Mr. Grace contributing 126; it ended in a draw. The third and fifth matches were lost by the Eleven, being beaten by the twenty-twos of Stowell and North South Wales by 10 and 8 wickets respectively; while in the fourth match against twenty-two of Warrnambool they were victorious by 9 wickets. This it will be seen that Mr. Grace's team has not quite such an easy time as the Gentlemen's Eleven had in this country in 1872.

Among the several fixtures already announced are Oxford vs. Cambridge, Lord's, June 29th, and Eton vs. Harrow, Lord's, Friday, July 10th. At the latter match last year there were 27,032 persons who paid entrance money, and about 40,000 altogether on the ground, and these magnificent assemblages tell that this match still holds its own as the great cricket attraction of the London fashionable season.

Before leaving this subject we have to chronicle a pleasant hour spent in William Pascock's Bat Manufactory a few days ago. He is well known as the only maker in the Dominion, and the carefulness of his workmanship and the beauty of the lines of his "Grace" bat secured a well-merited encomium from Mr. R. A. Fitzgerald. We add any praise of ours to that of such a thoroughly competent judge, would be superfluous; so we content ourselves with merely drawing attention to this bat, which, as the maker claims, combines in an unusual degree, lightness and strength.

**BOATING.**—March 28th, Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race. Inter-Collegiate Regatta of the Rowing Association of American Colleges on Saratoga Lake.

Rowing is a natural offshoot from the maritime character of the English people, and nowhere is it carried to such perfection as at the two great Universities; the best amateur rowing is there, and their annual match in March is a splendid exhibition of river rowing,—and pretty rough rowing it is, made still more unpleasant by an occasional snow-storm or a burst of wind and rain. Rowing clubs too have become very numerous of late years. Boating men associate together for all possible and impossible reasons, the best oarsmen belonging to several crews; they work hard all summer long, and rather tire one, not an enthusiast on the subject, with their utter absorption in their favourite sport; but it only lasts a few months in the year and the rest of the time they can talk and act rationally.

Among the many articles which appear from time to time on the subject, we know of none superior to "Oars and Sculls," by W. B. Woodgate, now running through *Bell's Life*; the perusal of which will almost make any one pull in a shell, besides affording several most valuable suggestions to the practised oarsman.

But returning to the great event of the 28th of March, we learn that both crews are practising hard, and that the whole boating world is seized with the "fit of Blues," which will increase in intensity till the great problem is solved on the eventful Saturday. Who shall it be, Oxford or Cambridge? We take leave to say that the year for choice; and how is it that for some inscrutable reason they are invariably "hot favourites" with the great British public, and this year it will go hard but they retain their laurels. We learn from college exchanges that the Rowing Association of American Colleges is doing its best to



make the regatta to be held at Saratoga Lake, a great success. They have our best wishes, and while our individual liking may possibly bias our judgment, we have but one expressed opinion, "May the best crew win."

**SNOWSHOING.**—We have to congratulate the Montreal S.S. Club upon the success of their concert the other evening. In addition to the worthy object to which it was intended to devote the proceeds, there was displayed great taste, originality, and musical ability, and we were glad to see success crown the efforts of our friends of the "Tuque Bleue." We have since learned that, by special request, they will give a similar entertainment during the month of March, and we can confidently recommend a very pleasant evening. Unpropitious weather prevented a large number of old snowshoers and others, who would gladly have been present, from witnessing their Annual Races. This was the more provoking, as they had been postponed from the week previous; but then it rained heavily, and when *Fugiter Pluvius* had discontinued his aqueous visitations, the day for the races was very dull, cheerless and cold; we were to the more disappointed, owing to the presence of several American gentlemen, the sporting editor of the *Spirit of the Times*, and others, who had come on here specially to witness the true sport of Canadian winter reduced to a question of minutes and seconds.

The want of an authentic account of the traditions, tramps, and records of past times of the Montreal S. S. C. has long been felt, and we are glad to hear that Mr. H. W. Becket, Treasurer M. S. S. C., has taken the subject in hand. We feel assured, from his knowledge of the subject, both practically and theoretically, that the compilation could not possibly be in better hands, and we eagerly await the result of his "labour of love."

We have only one suggestion to make, and that is on the threadbare subject of Professional vs. Amateur runners. We should like to see some conclusion come to on this vexed point, which would do away with the public running at Race meetings of such men as two whom we saw start on Saturday; and surely among the mass of correspondence published ages as well as here, some general definition could be evolved which would make amateurs feel secure when entering for any event that none but amateurs would compete with them. Of course, in our college races we have this feeling of security, as none but recognized undergraduates can enter; but this does not make us one whit less alive to the exigencies of the situation where members of other athletic organizations are concerned.

We had hoped to have been able to hold, this month, a winter meeting of the Athletic Sports Association, but certain circumstances, notably the sessional examinations, made it impracticable; and so many of our snowshoers are disappointed in regard to the "pewters" which they had hoped to carry off. There has been a vast amount of talking on the subject of getting a running track made on the cricket field, and we should like to see its fulfilment. We do not think the governors would object, and a very few hundred dollars would build a capital cinder path and club house. As to whether the track should be a quarter or one-third of a mile, we incline toward the latter; but before deciding this we have many preliminaries to settle, which should really receive immediate attention, so that as soon as the snow disappears the work on it may be begun in earnest.

Mr. Bowie's victory last summer has brought McGill prominently into the arena of College Athletics; and judging from the form of some of the runners at the Meeting last fall, we think that we have reason to be proud of their performances; and if the outlay of a small amount can secure the means of encouraging some of our men to come out, then shall there be a more than equivalent satisfaction. We have no means of rowing, at least the difficulties appear at present insuperable, and baseball we do not take kindly to, therefore the more ought we to encourage our football, cricket, and pedestrianism.

**SKATING.**—This is a truly fascinating pursuit, and non-skaters can have no conception of the sensations which the art exerts over those who are well accustomed to it; perhaps in Canada it is carried to greater perfection than in any other English-speaking country. In reference to its antiquity we find mention in quaint Samuel Pepys' diary about "Sliding with

*Scates*, which is a very pretty art." Sir Walter Scott, though unable to skate by reason of his lameness, was an ardent admirer of the art; and Dean Swift and Coleridge also make special allusion to this invigorating exercise. During this month we have seen skating in all its varied forms,—the startling evolutions of the competitors for the championship; the efforts to make *fast time* by the aspirants for the Governor General's prizes; and, most enjoyable of all, the two Fancy Dress entertainments, truly among the many things which must be seen to be appreciated, as the pen is powerless to do them justice. In the list of games of the V. S. K. there was a "snowshoe race on the ice;" rather a stupid plagiarism from the regular races of any snowshoe club, at which, though conscientious but ignorant people may suppose the races are run upon snow, yet the runners grumble when with shoes ten inches wide, weighing about three quarters of a pound each, they do not find a broad level track beaten as hard as a tone. In the old days skating was in the open air, a delightful, healthy exercise, and snowshoing meant a regular tramp of some miles 'cross country; but now we have our costly, over-ventilated rinks and *specialities* for the one, with toy shoes, stop-watches, and \$500 cups for the other. *Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.*

Before closing these "Notes," we have to acknowledge much information derived from *Pell's Life, The Canadian Gentleman's Journal*, and also from occasional random readings in odd half hours. These we have woven into the best texture our brain-mill could turn out, assisted by the memory of many a pleasant chat with heroes of the racing shoe, the out-rigger, the willow and the leathern sphere. R

**UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.**—In making reference to this proposed book we have to state that, owing to the unavoidable detention of several English MSS., the publication will not be produced by the date originally expected. Since our last issue letters have been received in connection with this work from the following gentlemen:—

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, M.D.  
 PROFESSOR WILLIAM EVERETT, M.A.  
 F. INNES CURREY, Hon. Sec. Rugby F. B. Union.  
 EDITOR *Bill's Life in London*.  
 R. A. FITZGERALD, Sec. M.C.C.  
 J. LUPARD PATFISON, Private Sec. to His Excellency.  
 "A GRAD. of '69," Yale University.  
 H. R. GRANT, Capt., Harvard F. B. C.  
 J. FOREMAN, Capt. Rugby School XX.  
 THOMAS HUGHES, M.P.  
 C. WESTLEY BUSH, Pres. Cambridge U. C. C.

There have also been promises of contributions personally received from

GEORGE MURRAY, B.A., Oxon.  
 C. PEERS DAVIDSON, M.A., B.C.L., Pres. M. Snow S. C.  
 E. G. O. HOPKINS.  
 RUSS W. HUNTINGTON.  
 DR. W. GEO. BEERS.  
 STANLEY KINNEAR, Hon. Sec. Lachair B. C.  
 D. E. BOWIE, B.C.L., winner "Bennett Challenge Cup."

The following letter, to the *Spirit of the Times*, we think explains itself, and we are only sorry that we had not a talk with Mr. Watson on this subject when he was here a few days ago. Amateur athletics are gaining ground every day, and the Universities are all deeply interested in their revival. We are strongly in favour of inter-collegiate contests, and as the representative Canadian University, and having among our members the winner of the "Bennett Challenge Cup," we have some grounds for claiming "a say in the matter." Now that the races at Saratoga are fixed, and the date of the foot race settled, we have much pleasure in learning Mr. Bowie's intention of again competing, if necessary, and we may be over-sanguine, but trust to see for the second time the honour of the victory rest upon our man. We might also criticise rather

sharply the unsettled question regarding the cup, and say a word or two to our American cousins on the subject of inter-collegiate courtesy, etc., but *Bis vincit, qui se vincit in viciorum*, and we hope that this July there will be no cause for even the semblance of a complaint.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, March 2, 1874.

DEAR SPIRIT,—I have just received your issue of February 28th, in which I notice with much pleasure an editorial on College Athletics. As McGill University is, we suppose, included in your remarks as coming under the head of American Colleges, where athletics are *but little understood or practised*, we think it our bounden duty to try and undeceive you. So long as American colleges confined themselves to Rowing Associations, and Base-ball Conventions, we remained strictly passive, as we have no facilities for boating, we remained strictly passive to base ball; but as soon as mention is made of Champion Inter-Collegiate sports on the running path, the cricket field, or the football ground, then we shall certainly claim the privilege of being represented. Last fall we had our annual Athletic Sports Association meeting, and sent invitations and programmes to all the colleges in the United States with which we were acquainted; to the sporting papers we also mailed cards, and notwithstanding received only one brief notice in one of the college exchanges. We call your attention to our card of events, among which will be found the five races that you particularize. Our Rule No. 2 is "All other events open to students of recognized Universities." The open races being a mile handicap and a quarter-mile in heats, and these were inserted to give some of the local amateurs a chance of drawing conclusions with one another. We are rather sweet upon athletics, and the *University Gazette* which I now mail to you will show that we are raising funds to build a cinder path and club house. We fully agree with your remarks on the number of races, the prizes, the entries, admission fee, etc., but we take exception to the arrangements being entirely left to three members of the New York Athletic Club. In Montreal there are, we think, more athletic meetings than even in New York, and consequently some of the gentlemen here know how to pull off these gatherings successfully. Even at our college sports there were present about 4,000 people to witness over 200 entries, and we were warmly congratulated upon our successful management.

We would therefore throw out the suggestion that there be one Canadian representative on the committee selected to conduct these meetings, and trust that this correspondence may result in some amicable arrangement which will be equally agreeable to all American colleges.

Yours truly,

DAV. RODGER, JR.,  
Capt. University Athletic Sports Association.

### The Toronto Observatory.

This institution is, as your readers are probably many of them aware, under the able superintendence of G. J. Kingston, Esq., M.A. Besides much extra periodic work, it contains in itself four distinct departments. The Magnetic Observatory, the chief Meteorological office for Canada, a local Meteorological station, and an astronomical observatory. As a magnetic observatory, we believe it stands alone in America, being the only station at which regular observations of magnetic phenomena are now recorded and have been systematically taken for any considerable period of years. This department we hope, in a later number of the GAZETTE, to refer to *in minutia*, and will not therefore particularize now.

The chief meteorological office from which emanate our storm warnings is that which is of greatest importance to our commercial population. The data upon which these predictions are founded are furnished by the tri-daily telegraphic reports of observations made simultaneously at stations scattered over the whole North American continent; and the same information is also in possession of the Washington observatory; the American and Canadian outlying stations reporting respectively to the central offices and their interchanging it. Within an hour of the time of the observation all these scattered facts are collected, arranged and transferred to a chart of the continent, from which can readily be seen the extent and direction of any storm that may then prevail elsewhere, or otherwise furnish the practiced observer the evidence that such is to be expected. Caution dictates that our seaports should be warned of a threatened storm, even though

probability is in favour of such storm passing over without including in its course the place in question. The local meteorological work at present consists in six daily observations of the barometer, thermometer and anemometer, with the state of the atmosphere, kind of cloud, their direction and that of the wind, together with any extraordinary meteoric phenomena. The telegraphic reports are made at 7.45 a.m., 4.25 p.m. and 10.50 p.m.; and the other three observations, constituting a different set, are made at 9 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. More frequent observation is now unnecessary, since from these hours the state of the weather is inferable for any hour in the day, but not in any hap-hazard way as it may perhaps be supposed. From 1840, when under the British Government this observatory was first instituted, for a continued series of years there were taken hourly observations. These have been tabulated in different forms, so arranged as to give direct means of temperature. To show how from any hour the temperature at any other hour of the day, or the mean temperature for that day, may be inferred, we will take an example. From the series of years during which the hourly observations have been taken there may be deduced a mean diurnal curve of temperature for each month, that is, the distance above or below the mean temperature for the day of each hour. It will be seen that the observations having extended over a number of years, any extremes of heat or cold due to accidental causes are destroyed in the result. Now, knowing the temperature at any one hour, we know from it the probable mean temperature of the day, and that of any other hour can be calculated by its tabular distance from of temperature. By the astronomical observatory the time itself is furnished, and for this purpose we find there the sidereal clock, and the transit with chronometers marking the mean time of the place. For determining the error and checking of a set of stars, usually four or five, is observed once a week. The nicety of these observations is so great that they are taken to the tenth of a second.

The present building is a substantial stone one built by the Canadian Government on the site of the old wooden structure erected in 1839 by the British Government. The ground upon which it stands is the property of the University College, but the connection between the University and the Observatory goes no farther. There is, however, we understand, an agreement between the Government and the University, that the ground is never to be made use of for other than scientific purposes.

Many improvements in meteorological instruments have been effected here as the result of experiment, combined with the experience of the observers. We should in particular mention one of much practical value—an anemometer which gives motion by means of a cam and lever to the escapement of a clock, and thus registers its revolutions upon the clock face. This instrument is now in use at several of the outlying stations, and is found to work admirably.

The proper protection, too, of the thermometer from radiation of surrounding objects and the direct rays of the sun, to arrive at which has for a long time caused great annoyance to observers, has here been very satisfactorily solved. The number of persons employed will give an idea of the vast quantity of work to be got through with, all of which falls under the direct supervision of Mr. Kingston. In the chief department he is ably assisted by Mr. Catymael, a distinguished graduate of Cambridge and Fellow of St. John's College; under him there are two sub-assistants and two clerks have more work than they know what to do with. In the local office there are three observers who attend also to the astronomical work. These gentlemen in turn remain on duty for the late and early observations, and all three are at work regularly during ordinary office hours.

In sketching this brief account of the Toronto Observatory, and of the very perfect arrangements to facilitate meteorological research there, we sigh for the time when we, in Montreal shall have, as the first city in Canada should, at least a first-class local observatory with a well-furnished astronomical observatory attached thereto. For its past efforts to establish this order of things we think, unaided as it has been, McGill University deserves all praise, though yet we have to mourn over the absence of a suitably situated building and a sad defect in its apparatus.

It is certainly surprising that the merchants of Montreal are not sufficiently awake to their own interests to establish a first-class observatory instead of relying, as in the past, upon the liberality of others. The University has, with its characteristic zeal in the cause of science, already commenced this, but until she receives more assistance we can scarcely expect from her those advantages which arise from observatories elsewhere. S. I.

## The Birds of Montreal and Vicinity.

## PAPER IV.

In the preceding papers on our birds, I have endeavoured to give all the reliable information which could be procured concerning the first order on our list—the Raptures. There is one fact, however, which I have since learned, and which should not be unrecorded, and that is, as I have been informed by a gentleman now residing in this city, but formerly a resident of Lachine, that about forty years ago, both he and others were accustomed to see a pair of the white or bald-headed Eagles regularly pay their annual visit to a small wooded island, known as Devil's Island, opposite the above village, but that as soon as the trees on said island were cut down the eagles quitted the locality and did not return in succeeding years.

Before proceeding further, it may be as well to state that in the present and succeeding papers, owing to limited space and the desire to complete these notices by the May number of the *Gazette*, the descriptions, &c., will necessarily have to be much shorter than was intended at first, though of course, the name of none of our birds will be purposely omitted. The generic characters not given may be found in the books already mentioned. The next order on our list is

## ORDER II. SCANSORES or Climbers.

The general characters of this order have been already given.

## Family: CUCULIDÆ.

“Bill compressed, gently curved, sometimes attenuated, and generally lengthened. A few bristles at the base of the bill, or none. Tarsi lengthened; toes rather short; tail long and soft, of 8 to 12 feathers.”

## Sub-family: COCCYZINÆ. American Cuckoos.

“There are four or five genera, and perhaps twenty species; none parasitic. Ours are strictly arboricole birds of lithe form, blended plumage and subdued colours; the head is not crested; and the tibial feathers are full as in a hawk; the sexes are alike, and the young scarcely different. In the following, the upper parts are uniform satiny olive-green, or ‘quaker colour’, with bronze reflections. Migratory, insectivorous; lay plain greenish eggs, in a rude nest of twigs saddled on a branch or in a fork. They are noted for their loud jerky cries, which they are supposed to utter most frequently in falling weather, whence their popular name ‘rain crows’”

## Genus: COCCYVUS. Viellot.

“Feathers about the base of the bill soft; bill nearly as long as the head, decurved, slender, and attenuated towards the end. Nostrils linear. Wings lengthened, reaching near the middle of the tail; the tertial feathers short. Tail of ten graduated feathers. Feet weak; tarsi shorter than the middle toe.”

The species of *Coccyzus* confine themselves to trees, instead of living habitually on the ground. The plumage is soft, fine, and compact.

The American Cuckoos differ from their European relatives (*Cuculus*) by having lengthened naked tarsi, instead of very short feathered ones. The nostrils are elongated, instead of being round. The habits of the two are entirely different, the American species rearing their own young, instead of laying the eggs in the nests of other birds, like the European Cuckoo, and the American Cowbird (*Molothrus's pectoris*).

We have only one species in this neighbourhood, the

**BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Bonaparte). This bird may be very easily recognized. The upper parts—head, back, wings, and tail are of an olive gray colour; breast and abdomen greyish white. Bill and legs dark coloured. Length from crown to the tip or end of the tail 10 inches, of which the tail alone measures about 6 inches from base to tip. Wings long and sharp pointed. This is not a common bird about here.

The Cuckoo appears to have been a general favourite with Shakespeare and many of the poets. Wordsworth has the following lines upon the same:

“O blithe new comer! I have heard,  
I hear thee and rejoice;  
O Cuckoo! shall I call thee bird,  
Or but a wandering voice?”

“To seek thee did I often rove  
Through woods and on the green;  
And thou wert still a hope, a love;  
Still longed for, never seen.”

## Family: PICIDÆ, or Woodpeckers.

“Bill straight, rigid and chisel-shaped at the tip; the base without rictal bristles. The feet are stout, and clothed anteriorly with broad plates. The wings are long; the primaries, the first very short; the secondaries vary from 9 to 12. Tail feathers 12, rigid and cuneate, especially the middle ones; the exterior are very small and concealed. The claws are high, strong, much curved and very sharp. The tongue is elongated and acute (in some there are short spines or barbs on each side near the point, and in others the tongue is fleshy and slightly roughened or rasp-like, but not barbed), and capable of great protrusion.”

## Sub-family: PICINÆ.

## Section: PICCÆ.

Includes those which have the “posterior outer toe longer than the anterior outer one. Lateral ridge starting above the middle of the base of the bill and extending to the tip.”

## Genus: PICUS. Linnaeus.

“The genus *picus* contains several subdivisions more or less entitled to distinct rank, and corresponding with peculiar patterns of colouration.”

## Sub-genus: TRICHOPTICUS. Bonaparte.

“Middle of back streaked with white. Beneath white, without spots. A narrow red nuchal band.”

**Hairy Woodpecker** (*Picus villosus*, Linnaeus), Sapsucker. This bird is about 7 or 8 inches in length; girth about 6 inches. Head black, with a divided patch of scarlet on the back part, and with two white bands extending from the base of the bill, the one passing over the eye, and mingling with the scarlet patch before mentioned, the other passing under the eye, and towards the back, where it spreads out, and then unites with the large white patch running down the back. Shoulder and central tail feathers black. Wings black spotted with white. Side tail feathers white. Throat and abdomen white. Bill blackish-white, and very peculiarly shaped. The upper mandible is triangular shaped, like that in the other species, but in addition the lateral edges, from about the middle of both the upper and lower mandibles, are beveled off towards the point, giving the bill something of a double chisel-edge appearance. The bill thus formed is admirably adapted for the work to which the bird applies itself, namely, that of digging grubs and insects out of the bark and wood of decayed trees. The grooves in the bill extend from each nostril to near the point. The young bird does not receive its full plumage till the second or third year. The female has not the scarlet patch on the back of the head.

This is one of our commonest species, and may be found at times almost everywhere in the woods about the city, Nuns' Island, &c.

**Downy Woodpecker**, (*Picus pubescens*, Linnaeus). The same general description given of the Hairy Woodpecker, will also answer for this species, there being but very little difference between them, so far as plumage is concerned. The present species, however, is only about half the size, and the bill is not so chisel-shaped as in the preceding; otherwise the bird under consideration might easily be mistaken for the young of the other.

The length is about 5½ inches; girth about 6 inches. The most abundant of our woodpeckers.

## Genus: PICOIDES. Lacepede.

**Arctic Woodpecker** (*Picoides arcticus*, Swainson). Black-backed—three-toed woodpecker; *Picoide arctic*. This bird is remarkable in having only three toes on each foot, one only posterior, and two anterior. Colour of head, back, wing coverts, and central tail feathers, black. Primaries black, spotted with white. Sides of body barred with black and white; abdomen white. Bill, legs and feet dark.

In addition to the above characters the adult male has a patch of yellow on the crown.

Length about 8 inches.

Not common, but occasionally found in the fall on the Mountain, about the Aqueduct, &c.

Genus: SPHYRAPICUS. Baird.

"This genus is very remarkable in the prominence of the lateral ridge, and its termination in the middle of the commissure, with the narrowness and low situation of the nostrils."

Distinguishing characters:—"All have the central line of the abdomen yellow, and the upper tail coverts white.

Coues states that "the tongue is not extensible; the tip brushy; hyoid bones short. Birds of this genus feed much upon fruits as well as insects, and also it would seem upon soft inner bark (cambium); they injure fruit trees by stripping off the bark, sometimes in large areas, instead of simply boring holes. Of the several small species commonly called 'sapsuckers' they alone deserve the name. In declaring war against woodpeckers, the agriculturist will do well to discriminate between the somewhat injurious and the highly beneficial species."

YELLOW-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*, Baird).

This is a rather handsome species. Length, about 7½ inches; girth about 6 inches. Back mottled white and black. Wings more or less barred with white, with a long white patch on the shoulder. Tail feathers black, spotted with yellow, with central feathers, mostly yellow. Abdomen, yellowish-white down the centre, and mottled with black towards the sides. There is a deep scarlet patch on the crown, and another on the throat in the adult male; but in the female, the scarlet on the throat is replaced by yellow. There is also a yellowish-white band extending from the base of the upper mandible, under the eye, downwards, and then over the shoulder, and again passing down round the large black patch in front of the breast of both male and female. Another similarly coloured streak rises immediately behind the eye, and runs backwards. Bill, legs and feet black. This is a rare species in this neighbourhood at the present.

Genus: HYLATOMUS. Baird.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Hylatomus pileatus*, Linnæus), Log-cock; Black wood-cock; *Grande pic de bois noir*; *Hylotome pilea*. This is the largest of our woodpeckers, in fact the only species which exceeds it in size, on the North American Continent, is one which it much resembles, but belongs to another genus, and known as the Ivory Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*, Gray.) The present species is a magnificent bird. It is distinguished by the large scarlet crest on the head. Colour of the back, wings, tail, breast and abdomen blackish brown. There are two patches of white, a small, narrow one extending from the eye backwards along the base of the crest. The other begins at the base of the upper mandible, passes along the eye, and widening towards the back of the neck, runs downwards and along the sides of the body, and under the wing, which is also bordered in the upper part with white. The head and bill are large; the latter chisel-shaped as in the Hairy Woodpecker. Length about 16 inches; girth about 10 inches.

Audubon has the following, concerning the present species. He states, after many years' observation, that "the bill is long, when just fledged that at any future period of its life, and that through use it becomes not only shorter, but also much harder, stronger and sharper. When the woodpecker first leaves the nest, its bill may easily be bent; six months after, it resists the force of the fingers; and when the bird is twelve months old, the organ has acquired its permanent bony hardness. On measuring the bill of a young bird of this species not long able to fly, and that of an adult bird, I found the former seven-eighths of an inch longer than the latter."

The Pileated Woodpecker is rarely met with now in the woods about this city.

Genus: CENTURUS. Swainson.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Centurus Carolinus*, Bonaparte). This is also a handsome bird. Crown, and back of the neck, orange. Back, wings and tail more or less regularly barred black and white. Abdomen reddish grey; bill, legs and feet black. Length about 7½ inches; girth about 6½ inches. This is a rare species,

Genus: MELANERPES. Swainson.

"The species all have the back black, without any spots or streaks anywhere."

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Linnæus.) The male is not very difficult to recognize. Head and neck deep scarlet. Back, wing coverts and primaries black; tail also black, with side quills tipped with white. Abdomen and sides of body white. Bill, legs and feet, dark. Length about 7 or 8 inches.

The female bird is not nearly so distinctly coloured. Head, neck, back, and wing coverts, a mixture of light and dark brown, with the exception of a reddish patch on the back of the neck. Secondaries, or middle feathers of the wing, white, slightly mottled with dark brown. Primaries, and tail feathers, dark brown, with the side tail feathers bordered and tipped with white, as in male bird. Abdomen brownish white. Bill, legs and feet, rather lighter than those of the male.

Rare species.

Genus: COLAPTES. Swainson.

GOLDEN-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Colaptes auratus*, Linnæus), Flicker; yellow-shafted Woodpecker; High Holder. This is one of our largest and most beautiful birds. The distinguishing feature is the beautiful golden yellow colour on the underside of the wing and tail feathers. This yellow colour is also seen on the upper side of the shafts of the before-mentioned feathers. Head and wing coverts greyish-brown, with a patch of scarlet on the back of the neck. Around the eyes and neck light reddish-brown, with a black patch—in the male bird only—extending from the base of the lower mandible of the bill, a little below each eye. There is another large black patch, semicircular (lunule) in shape on the front of the breast of both male and female. Back and wing coverts brown, barred or spotted with black. Abdomen brownish white, the end of each feather with a black heart-shaped patch. Tail coverts white, with peculiar black V-shaped markings. Upper tail feathers black, with side ones notched and tipped with yellow. Bill with a distinct ridge on upper mandible. Colour of bill, legs and feet dark. Length about 9 inches; girth about 7 inches. This species is rather plentiful during the summer months. It is to be met with between the cemeteries on the Mountain, and also about the Aqueduct, preferring scattered trees rather than dense woods.

It will be seen from the foregoing list that we have nine members of the order Scautores, including one representative of the Cuckoo family, and eight species of Woodpeckers.

The tongue of the latter is a peculiar piece of mechanism. The tip of some is furnished with three or four barbs or hook-like projections on each side; the tongue of such species as have these barbed tips, is generally long and slender. Other species have the tons of the thick, and rasp like, and not barbed. The right and left lobes of the posterior part of the tongue are attached to slender jointed rods of cartilage, which curve or bend round the back of the skull and over the top toward the front, and fitting in a groove immediately above the eye-sockets. The tongue having been protruded by suitable muscles beyond the bill, after some insect, is brought back to its original position by the springing action of the jointed rods. The toes are also arranged in pairs, two in front and two in rear; the second outer rear toe corresponds in fact to what is in ordinary birds the third outer, anterior or front toe, but is turned backwards. This arrangement of the toes in pairs is well adapted to the habits of the bird. The *modus operandi* is somewhat as follows: when the bird alights on a branch or trunk of a tree, it clutches or seizes hold of the bark by means of the claws; the usual position is to have its head, body and tail, in line with the length of the branch. Having got a tight hold with its feet, the tail feathers are pressed firmly against the bark, and then the bird is ready for action, which consists in digging or tapping away at the bark with its 'chisel', in search of grubs and beetles, &c. The number of taps which I have heard the Downy Woodpecker make, is about four per second, continuing sometimes for about five seconds, and after a short interval of rest, then goes on tapping again. The noise produced may be heard at a distance of fifty or more feet; larger species of course will be heard much farther, and at times closely resembles, and might be mistaken for the creaking or rubbing noise of one branch against another on a windy day. The cuneate or wedge shape of the principal feathers of the tail, I believe to

be mainly due to the erosion or rubbing action of the bark of trees, against which the feathers are most of the time pressed, wearing away the fibrils on each side of the shaft, which is harder, and leaving the latter portion of the feathers projecting beyond, something like that observed in the case of the Chimney Swallow, which will be noticed further on.

#### Order III. INSESSORIS, or PERCHERS.

Contains 3 sub-orders:—*Strisores*, *Clamatores*, and *Oscines*. The claws are not retractile, nor the bill with a cere as in the Raptors; nor is the hind toe situated appreciably above the plane of the others, as in *Resores*, *Grallatores*, and *Natatores*. The characteristic of the groups *Strisores*, *Clamatores*, and *Oscines*, and of their sub-divisions, depend very much on peculiarities of the larynx. The tongue of the Insesores varies to a considerable degree. In the humming birds it is thread-like and bifurcated. In most others it is long or short, flat, and triangular, the posterior extremity bilobed, the anterior usually with the tip horny, serrated, or with fibres: more rarely smooth.

#### Sub-order: STRISORES.

They have the muscles of the lower larynx, thin, flat, or entirely wanting, the voice incapable of modulation.

#### Family: TROCHILIDÆ. The Humming Birds.

There are in all between 300 and 400 species, peculiar to the Continent of America and adjacent islands—most abundant in Central America. The bill of the humming-bird is awl-shaped or subulate, thin, and sharp-pointed; straight or curved; sometimes as long as the head; sometimes much longer. The mandibles are excavated to the tip for the lodgement of the tongue, and form a tube by the close apposition of their cutting edges. The tongue has some resemblance to that of the Woodpecker in the elongation of the corua backwards, so as to pass round the back of the skull, and then anteriorly to the base of the bill. The tongue itself is of very peculiar structure, consisting anteriorly of two hollow threads closed at the end and united behind. The wings of the humming-birds are long and falcate (bent like a sickle); the shafts very strong; the primaries, usually ten in number, the first always longest; there are six secondaries. The tail has but ten feathers. The feet are small; the claws very sharp and strong.

Humming birds have a particular liking for tubular or trumpet-shaped flowers. Their food consists of small beetles and flies. On account of their gorgeous plumage and size, they have been designated "the jewels of ornithology" and "least of the winged vagrants of the sky."

We have only one species belonging to the

#### Genus: TROCHILUS. Linnæus.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-BIRD.** (*Trochilus colubris*, Linnæus.) This is the smallest representative of the bird kind we have in this neighborhood, and also one of the most beautiful.

Length and girth about 2½ inches. Wings long and narrow, and well adapted for rapid flight. Tail short and broad. Bill about .75 of an inch in length, round and pointed at the apex. Legs and toes small. The upper parts dark brown, with beautiful green reflections along the back. On the throat of the male there is a series of curious fin-like feathers, overlapping each other of a beautiful ruby or crimson color, on account of which this bird has received its common English name. There is also a white patch on the breast, while the colour of the abdomen is brownish-white.

The colour of the throat, breast and abdomen of the female is white.

The nest of this species measures about one inch and three quarters externally; internal diameter about one inch, with a total height of about two inches. The interior of the nest is constructed of wool, or some other equally soft material, while the exterior and upper edges are covered with small pieces of lichens and mosses. The nest is usually placed on some horizontal, lichen-covered branch, about ten or fifteen feet from the ground—the whole being so placed as to lead one, not acquainted with the above facts, entirely astray as to the real nature of the object at which they may be gazing.

The bird generally lays two small faint blueish-white eggs, measuring about three-eighths of an inch in length.

Audubon has the following on this species: "Where is the person who, on seeing this lovely little creature moving on humming winglets through the air, suspended as if by magic in it, flitting from one flower to another, with motions as graceful as they are light and airy, pursuing its course over our extensive continent, and yielding new delights wherever it is seen; where is the person, I ask of you, kind reader, who on observing this glittering fragment of the rainbow, would not pause, admire, and instantly turn his mind with reverence toward the Almighty Creator, the wonders of whose hand we at every step discover, and of whose sublime conceptions we everywhere observe the manifestations in His admirable system of creation? There breathes not such a person; so kindly have we all been blessed with that intuitive and noble feeling—admiration!

No sooner has the returning sun again introduced the vernal season and caused millions of plants to expand their leaves and blossoms to its genial beams, than the little Humming bird is seen advancing on fairy wing carefully visiting every open flower cup, and, like a curious forest, removing from each the injurious insects, that otherwise would ere long cause their beauteous petals to droop and decay. With the eye, it is observed peeping cautiously, and with sparkling eye, into their inmost recesses, whilst the ethereal motions of its pinions so rapid and so light, appear to fan and cool the flower without injuring its fragile texture, and produce a delightful murmuring sound, well adapted for lulling the insects to repose. Then is the moment for the Humming bird to secure them. Its long delicate bill enters the cup of the flower, and the protruded double-tubed tongue, delicately sensible, and imbued with a glutinous saliva, touches each insect in succession, and draws it from its lurking place, to be instantly swallowed. All this is done in a moment, and the bird, as it leaves the flower, sips so small a portion of its liquid honey, that the theft, we may suppose, is looked upon with a grateful feeling by the flower, which is thus kindly relieved from the attacks of her destroyer." The present species may be quite frequently seen in the Mount Royal Cemetery, in the gardens about the Mountain, in the Glen, and elsewhere, flitting about from one tree to another, and looking more like a large moth than a bird.

February, 1874.

GEO. T. KENNEDY.

### Personals.

MATTHEW HUTCHISON, B.C.L., '73, was lately married to Miss Hood of this city.

LEWIS W. P. COULLEE, B.C.L., '73, is practicing Law at Hull, P. Q., and is reported to be rapidly gaining a fine position.

C. A. NUTTING, B.C.L., '72; D. Darby, B.C.L., '70; and W. Lay, B.C.L., '67, are practising Law in Waterloo, Q.

W. J. WATTS, B.A., '66, B.C.L., '69, has been elected to the Local Legislature for Athabaska.

W. J. B. PATERSON, undergraduate in Law, and at present Commercial Editor of the *Montreal Gazette*, was married last month.

R. S. B. O'BRIEN, M.D., '73, has gone to Mexico.

STEWART R. W. JENKINS, 2nd year Arts, has left the University and gone to study law in London, Eng.

NOS. 4 AND 5 COMPANIES PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES.

#### Memorandum.

The officer commanding the Guard of Honour posted at the railway depot yesterday, the 12th inst., on the occasion of the departure of His Excellency the Governor-General, has the honour to announce that His Excellency, after inspecting the guard, was graciously pleased to signify his appreciation of the compliment paid him, and in warm terms to express his admiration of the fair appearance and soldierly bearing of the troops.

[Signed,

J. F. ARMSTRONG,  
Capt. Commanding the Guard.

February 13th, 1874.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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## THE EXAMINATIONS

IN THE

## Law Faculty of the McGill University,

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*At the head of McGill College Avenue,*On the Days mentioned in the Calendar, from  
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*Registrar.*

MONTREAL, March 2, 1874.

## UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY'S COURSE

## MR. WENDELL PHILLIPS.

- SUBJECT.—1. "DANIEL O'CONNELL," MARCH 11TH.  
" 2. "THE LOST ARTS," " 12TH.

## REV. CANON KINGSLEY.

- SUBJECT.—1. "WESTMINSTER ABBEY," MARCH 24TH.  
" 2. "THE FIRST DISCOVERERS OF AMERICA,"  
[MARCH 25TH.

HON. WM. PARSONS, *Irish Orator.*

- SUBJECT.—1. "GEO. STEPHENSON," APRIL 7TH.  
" 2. "MICHAEL ANGELO," " 8TH.

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## SESSION 1873-4.

THESIS to be sent to the DEAN OF FACULTY, on or before the 3rd March.

MEDICAL LECTURES will terminate FRIDAY EVENING, 13th March.

Examinations for the DEGREE IN MEDICINE will take place as follows:—

PRIMARY WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS, in the Molson Hall, on Saturday, 21st March, from 10 A.M. till 1 P.M., and from 3 till 6 P.M.

FINAL WRITTEN EXAMINATION, at the same hour and place, on Tuesday, the 24th.

PRIMARY ORAL EXAMINATIONS will commence in the Library, on Monday, 23d, at 3 P.M.

FINAL ORAL EXAMINATIONS will commence at the same hour and place, on Wednesday, 25th.

DEFENCE OF THESIS, on Saturday, 28th, at 3 P.M., at the same Hall.

CONVOCATION FOR CONFERRING DEGREES IN MEDICINE, Monday, 30th.

GEO. W. CAMPBELL, A.M., M.D.,  
*Dean of Faculty.*

MONTREAL, 25th February, 1874.

## Just Published.

*The Story of the Earth and Man.*—By J. W. Dawson, F. R. S., Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the McGill University, Montreal. (Hodder and Stoughton).—Geology as a science must always prove attractive; its study serves the highest ends, and the facts, suggestions, and conclusions it evolves enlarge and discipline the mind. The several chapters of this treatise were originally prepared for, and appeared in, the *Lectures Hour*; and now that they are gathered together, and reproduced, with their illustrative diagrams, they make an exceedingly useful volume—a volume containing an epitome of all the theories from time to time advanced, and the modern arguments peculiar to this many-sided and important subject. The author's method is admirable for its simple straightforwardness; for, while he avoids such technicalities as are likely to confuse the unscientific reader, leaves nothing untouched which is necessary to a fair—not to say complete—comprehension of the whole science. With commendable reticence, Dr. Dawson has left undiscussed the relation of scientific geology to the Mosaic account of the creation of the world; but on this branch of the subject he has previously written in his "Archæa," and, therefore, the less need to go over the ground a second time. All, however, will agree with him, that geology, to be really useful, must "be emancipated from the control of bald metaphysical speculation, and delivered from that materialistic infidelity which, by robbing Nature of her spiritual element, makes science dry, barren, and repulsive, diminishes its educational value, and even renders it less efficient for purposes of practical research."

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Lucian, Charon.—Latin.—Cicero, Pro Lege Manilia; Livy, bk. V., chaps. 1,  
—XXV.; Horace, Odes, bk. I.—Text Books.—Hadley's Elements of Greek  
Grammar. Arnold's Greek Prose Composition, Exercises 1 to 25. Dr. Wil-  
liam Smith's Smaller Latin Grammar, and Principia Latina, Part IV.—  
Mathematics.—Euclid, bk. I., II., III., IV. Algebra to end of Harmonical  
Progression (Colenso). Arithmetic.—English.—English Grammar and Com-  
position.—(Bain's Grammar, as far as Derivation) Special Exercises in Gram-  
mar and Composition.

*To Students entering the Second Year, Three Exhibitions of  
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*Subjects:*—As stated in Calendar of last year.

*To Students entering the Third Year, Three Scholarships of  
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### IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PRACTICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE.

*The Scott Exhibition, founded by the Caledonian Society of  
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Walter Scott.*

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lish or the Junior Year and English History as in Student's Home. Engineering  
and Surveying of First Year. Chemistry, as in Wilson's Text Book.

*One Exhibition of \$66, to Students entering the Senior Year.*

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with remainder of Drew's Conic Sections and of Colenso's Algebra [Part 1].  
The Engineering and Surveying of the two preceding years, with a Report on  
some Engineering work. English Grammar—Bain's. English Composition.  
History of England—Smith's Student's Home; Hallam's Middle Ages, chaps.  
VIII., IX.—English Literature.—Collier; Johnson's Lives of the Poets.—  
Zoology.—Dawson's Hand Book, Invertebrates, and more especially Fossil  
Animals.

W. C. BAYNES, B.A.,

*Secretary.*

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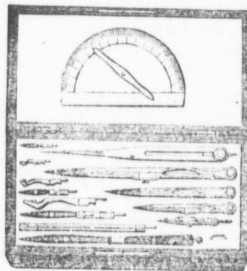
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