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WOLFVILLE NOVA SCOTIA

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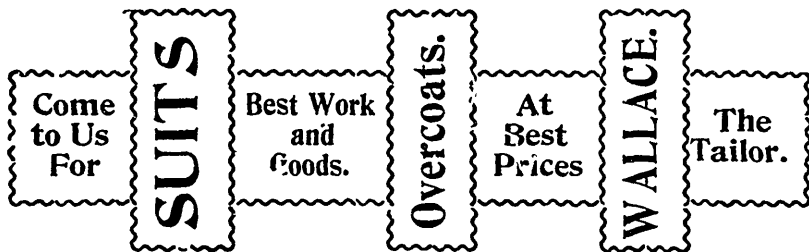
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DECEMBER 1899

No. 2.

The Samoan Settlement.

A most important event of this month in diplomatic circles is the Samoan Settlement. England yields her interests in this quarter receiving two of the Solomon islands and full claim to the Tonga group, where there is the excellent harbor of Niue. Germany as a further consideration renounces certain exterritorial claims in Zanzibar, and apparently has come to a satisfactory agreement with Great Britain in regard to South Africa. In the division of the Samoan Islands Germany takes Upolu and Savaii, valuable to her because of commercial and industrial enterprises flourishing there in which her citizens have large sums invested. The United States gets Tutuila, the smallest in size of the group, but of most worth to her because of its harbor of Pango Pango, pronounced, by one familiar with those waters, the best in all the Pacific.

So, quite agreeably and advantageously to all, has been settled a question which for some years and increasingly has deserved to be called troublesome. The tripartite control was a failure because among those concerned there was not community of thought and action either political or social. Even Great Britain and the United States with their very similar colonial policies could not hope to avoid all friction in a joint government and with Germany in the question there was no prospect of other than petty disputes and

bickerings liable at any time to issue into something far more serious.

**The
Policy of
Expansion.**

Our neighbor to the South seems beyond question pledged to expansion. Hawaii, Port Rico, the Philippines and now Tutuila, all acquired within little more than a twelvemonth, give evidence of a readiness to colonize scarcely equalled at any time by even the land-greedy British people. The Anglo-Saxon spirit and life are asserting themselves spite of strenuous efforts to repress them made by those who see in this enlarged conception of national responsibility only ultimate disaster to the State. That this policy of expansion is of the people as well as of the President and his councillors, the late elections afford ample confirmation. Wherever the conduct of the President in regard to the Philippines was a vital question before the electors, there was his action endorsed. In Iowa, where this issue was quite the leading one, Governor Shaw, the Republican candidate was re-elected by a majority double that which he received two years ago. Massachusetts, the home of Norton and Atkinson, turned a deaf ear to the anti-imperialism cry, and refused its advocates election. Even so sturdy a campaigner as Senator Morgan has said: "We shall hear very little about either expansion or imperialism next year." In this connection is read with interest, the preliminary report of the commission appointed to investigate affairs in the Philippine Islands. The report after discussing the responsibility and extent of the present war, and the capacity of the natives for self-government, says in regard to national duty, "We cannot from any point of view escape the responsibilities of the government which our sovereignty entails, and the commission is strongly persuaded that the performance of our national duty will prove the greatest blessing to the peoples of the Philippine Islands."

**Britain
in South
Africa.**

This clearer vision of the great Anglo Saxon Republic in regard to international duties affords immense satisfaction to the British government and people. It augurs sympathy with our nation and support as far as is needed in her efforts to give peace and civilization to South Africa. No less than the United States does Great Britain stand for freedom and protection to be secured to all men. She went into Africa to carry to the people of that continent the blessings of her own civilization and enlightenment. She went into Africa to stay, and stay she will. Not what the narrow-minded and envious are falsely affirming of the "narrowing lust of gold" and no less narrowing lust of dominion that impel a strong people to rob a weak; nor the jealousy of lesser nations; nor the threats of European interference held out by irresponsible newsmongers, will prevent England from the

successful conclusion of this undertaking to which she has committed herself. About Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley British soldiers are displaying the same patient endurance combined with dogged persistency and unflinching courage which have sustained them in many a hard-fought campaign, and which, when reinforcements are arrived will win for them brilliant and merciful victories. And when the peace has been brought about, then shall freely operate those principles of equity and good government that have transformed India and made Australia and Canada the homes of people strong in their freedom and intensely loyal to the great mother-land through which their blessings have come.

Football In a recent magazine article the President of a Western University wrote of inroads that College athletics are making upon the work of the schools. Another article in the public press comments upon the dangers to life and limb attending football. It is most pleasing to know that in our community there is an almost entire absence of either of the harmful effects above noted. This year there have been no serious accidents on the field, none in fact that are not likely to occur in connection with all vigorous exercise. As to absence from classes resulting from devotion to sport, there can surely be no reasonable ground for complaint. Only two days were consumed by the team on its visit to Sackville. Several men coming in on the morning train of the third day were in their classes within fifteen minutes after their arrival, and the day of the annual Dalhousie-Acadia game nearly every member of the team attended to his college duties during the forenoon. It may be safely affirmed that never yet has football in our school unduly kept from their studies any but the men who were seeking for something they could call an excuse for dereliction of duty; and if these had not taken football they would have found another.

Sir
William
Dawson

With well-nigh four score years of faithful service to his record another of Nova Scotia's famous sons has entered into his rest. Sir William Dawson as an eminent scientist was known throughout the world. His contributions to the study of Geology are among the standard authorities on that subject. His work as a educationalist was connected with the University of New Brunswick and later with McGill University of which he was for years principal. In 1883 he was knighted. His degrees were many. From his *Alma mater* the University of Edinburgh he held M. A.; from McGill, L. L. D. Both the Geological and the Royal Society made him a Fellow. But it is as a staunch defender of the Christian Faith that Sir William Dawson will be specially remembered. He always affirmed the truth of the Word of God and in his lecturing, writing and teaching

sought to show the agreement between science and biblical record. The unwavering faith of one whose splendid researches had led him far into those studies, the mere shadow of which shakes the belief of not a few, cannot fail to exert a strong influence upon the thoughtful mind.

College men need strong cables and hard anchor holds if they will not drift in these times. All will not be specially interested in science. All must be deeply interested in one who as a scientist was a peer of his fellows, and at the same time believed God "that it shall be even as he has said."

A National Literature.

BY

NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN.

When a few members of Parliament waited on the late Sir John Abbott, then Prime Minister, and just created Knight, and urged him as head of the government to improve the position of certain young poets employed in the public service, amongst them, our much lamented friend Archibald Lampman, nobly lamented by Campbell, the astute premier, a commercial lawyer, who had been all his life an agent for great interests, a clever man too, said:—"Can't they sell their poems and make money out of them?" Well was it for Lampman that he had the standpoint of his sonnet, "Outlook"; a standpoint of moral greatness like that of Milton. The too practical heart might not be touched by him or his belongings, or struggles, yet happy was he for he saw with wiser eyes, to use his own words "life, love, beauty," and though he also knew at least by sympathy "hard human need", and his soul may at times have been "blind and dumb with agony" assuredly among his possessions were:—

"Great voices from life's outer sea,
Hours of strange triumphs, and when few men heard,
Murmurs and glimpses of eternity";

and now we fondly hope the "murmurs" have been replaced by vast diapasons of mighty harmonies and the "glimpses" by full-fed seeing of landscapes of infinite delight.

What is a national literature? What function does a literature fulfil as regards its community? What does it do for it? It expresses it; pictures it; embodies it for itself and for all outside "And the word was God"; is not the word man too? What is Othello? What Hamlet? So many speeches. Caesar, Pompey, or take the greatest of all, that star of patience and peace, who for centuries has looked down on a warring Christendom—He who was and is the incarnate sigh of the Infinite over human sin and pain—What are these

but words? Only by the word can consciousness formulate itself. Sign—note—voice of life and fosterer if not creator of vital intellectuality, literature is the greatest of miracles. What is opening the eyes of the blind compared with the parable of the prodigal? What is Rome? The page of Livy—the song of Virgil. What is the Jewish nation? The Bible. Three score little books, all capable of being put in a nut shell. Open the shell, spread the tiny leaves and behold the march of a marvellous race, a people unique, for hundreds of years; you see them and hear their cry in bondage; their shout of triumph mingled with the sigh of the sea; their meannesses, defeats, victories, naïve idylls, lyric songs; their wisdom and folly. You live in the palaces of their kings; kneel with them in private prayer, join in their antiphonal anthems down the mountain sides; you work in the harvest field; you learn to know these primitive husbandmen; their wives and daughters; a few words and millions are introduced to the gentle Ruth, or to the dark inscrutable Jael; prophets, statesmen, orators, poets, priests, kings, all brought before us by a few bits of writing. Literature can in a true sense say:—“Race—nation—*c'est moi.*”

Alas! for the silent cradle. Literature is the voice of the living and vigorous community; what memory is to the individual—the indispensable condition of conscious relation between past and present—the magic link which makes the generations one; which unifies the Englishman of maxim guns with the Englishman of times when war was innocent of gun powder; the soldiers of Crecy and those of the Soudan and the Dargai ridge. To know a race, we must hear its sighs, its prayers, its curses, its songs, its speeches, its whispers; the hiss of its envies, the velvet voice of its charity and love; nor can it know itself and the present feel one with the past without a generated literature; this absent a people cannot reach its highest, cannot culminate in civilized effort.

We Canadians speak the tongue that Shakespeare spoke; we have English literature. But this cannot supply all our needs. We have a national existence of our own. There is a Canada to be expressed; an eminence to be sought which we cannot reach if without that which is to a people what the higher faculties of the mind are to the man. The millionaires should now begin to endow chairs to encourage original literary effort. Prize poems have been laughed at. Yet Tennyson was helped by his. Neither Milman nor Brazenose College, nor Oxford itself, was the worse for the “Belvidere Apollo.” The success of Heber’s “Palestine” encouraged himself, and gave promise of his future eminence. A better method than prize poems can easily be found. The thing to bear in mind is that what we ought to encourage is that form of study which is most likely to be neglected and has least chance of finding stimulus in popular recognition.

More has been said than is quite just of the dignity of literature as

a calling in modern as compared with less modern times. The public as well as great noblemen and kings has draw-backs as a patron. The public does not protect the literary man for what he is as well as for what he does ; it pays for what it gets, and its standard is necessarily conditioned on its culture. It encourages hasty writing, sensationalism, the over-much and the over-paltry, and is inimical to distinction and reserve. If high thought and commensurate expression shall cream up on the mind, it must be free from care ; must have seasons of rest. But for Sir Robert Peel's timely pension we should not have had Tennyson. Should we have Horace or Virgil but for Maecenas? Should he have Homer but for the kings who gave him honour and protection? How much we owe to Herbert or Southampton for Shakespeare we shall never know. What attraction, charm, inspiration as well as loveableness there must have been in the man who inspired the Sonnets. Byron, Milton, Pope were independent. Addison and Macaulay were made so by political friends, and illustrations could be multiplied. The great noble had that to give which the public certainly cannot bestow—in addition to a delicate friendship, the society of women with inherited graces, an environment breathing distinction and ease ; ancient traditions ; that imposing trinity—the venerable, the beautiful and the great.

No one wants to crown aspiring dunces or place a single spray on the brow of mediocrity. We have, at the moment, two living men of genius before the mind, one of whom has many a time watched all the beauty of wave, and cloud of sunlight and storm which gathers around the brow and base of Blomidon. Both have produced first-rate work—but no one can read them without feeling they are capable of even better things. In Canada neither has met with the stimulus of a due response. Both are Canadian in heart ; one lives and works in a foreign country, and the most emphatic recognition of the other took place in a distant European capital.

It was then a true instinct which led to that application to the late Sir John Abbott. A statesman may act on even as he is reacted on by the literary art of his time. A great statesman may foster—can almost create a literature ; can most certainly direct and determine its character. May we hope for such a man? What an effect would be produced in Canada and on the world, should a great minister arise whose insight and foresight, whose grasp and philosophical breadth will include the direction of that which emanates from the soul of a people and react on it in stirring and creative waves of power.

France in the seventeenth century furnishes an instructive example of what great things a ruler and leader of men may do for literature and how amply literature can repay. Swift in the notice preceding his *Battle of the books*, says the controversy took its rise from an essay of Sir William Temple's. It was in fact the echo of a

gallic dispute which was the weedy outcome of that which was in itself a noble movement started by Richelieu.

The licentiousness of French literature at the opening of the seventeenth century may be described but not sampled. The *Précieuses*, doomed to Molière's jibes by and by, rendered a great service by frowning down grossness and pedantry. That incomparable lady Madame de Rambouillet and the gracious women who followed her, like the nymphs in Diana's train, would not permit the naked image to be thrust on their attention. Neither in conversation nor books was this allowed. Literary polish follows social politeness. To act more nobly, more delicately, with more refinement than others became a cult. The effect was immediate on literary taste. The way was paved for Corneille—the greatest man who has ever in France written for the play house and who claimed with just pride, that his earliest achievement was to establish the reign of decency and morality on the stage.

Richelieu a great statesman, was also a literary man and had indeed aspired to success in the drama. Large in all his schemes he conceived the idea, first, let it be admitted, in the interest of his politics, then in the interest of literature,—to make this contribute to the homogeneousness and unity of France. He wanted a united French state,—living, organized; he wished a like unity, life and organization in literature. Hence the French Academy established to bind up the destinies of literature with those of France—to bring this great social force in touch with the central authority—to nationalize it. Such an institution could only be useful when controlled by a great mind and to-day it is of doubtful value. What is intended to unify once unity has been accomplished, is no longer needed.

Richelieu's work in this regard was interrupted by his death, by the Fronde, by the rule of a Spanish Queen and an Italian minister, and by Fouquet who so far as he had any aim, outside pleasure and generous appreciation, sought to inspire personal attachment. The death of Mazarin emancipating him, the king showed that he was conscious of his kingship. Young, gallant, addicted to ostentatious splendour, there was in the early period nothing formal, solemn, or pompous about his court. In a perpetual round of refined pleasures there arose a new politeness of which the monarch gave an example; a politeness less studied, freer, less ceremonious, than that of the court of Anne of Austria, but watchful and of perfect grace. Manners became at once more elegant and natural; language more refined; sentiments more subtle; the nuances of passion more entrancing than passion itself; so that lives were controlled and given under a complex spell; beautiful feeling and loyalty towards women or men, themselves sometimes not wholly worthy if not indeed wholly worthless, like a rose blooming on a dung heap—a lily in a stagnant pool; refinements unseizable by sane ordinary mortals, like light ming-

ling with fragrance or lovely hues holding on to the skirts of delicate odours.

[“Illusion makes the better part of life.”]

This is true along the whole line. Even religions have been builded with metaphors and the pious in all ages and most creeds have climbed on similes to heaven. This new politeness spread to the provinces and the petty German courts; dominated Europe; swayed the English court, not always there any more than elsewhere to the advantage of a severe morality.

Louis' force of character made itself felt on all sides. He at once adopted the authority which had been stored up by Richelieu and Mazarin. His ministers became his clerks; kings from the Thames to the sands of Brandenburg his pensioners. Order was established throughout France; justice penetrated everywhere. Commerce, industry, the arts flourished. France became rich; her monarchy the most splendid, her court the most brilliant in Europe. What wonder if the authors like the rest were dazzled? Led by admiration and impelled by interest they gravitated towards this great centre. The King invited them to court: gave them a definite rank in the social hierarchy; secured them liberty by removing them from the fear of passionate nobles quick to take offense and the lawless violence which had been until recently only too common in Paris. But for such protection we should have had no Molière and without Molière, no Regnard, no Le Sage, no Beaumarchais in France; nor in England the school for scandal and its kindred comedy; the European Comedy of six generations. It was the King himself who overcame the disinclination to admire Racine; Madame de Sevigne's letter on the occasion of the first representation Bajazet shows the struggle. “I send you a Bajazet” she writes “if I could send you Champmesle,” (the beautiful and accomplished actress who played the principal role) “you would find the piece good; but without her it loses half its charm” and then she breaks into raptures over Corneille “*Je suis folle de Corneille*,” as well she might be, Racine she said did not write for the future “*Vive donc notre vieil ami Corneille*.” Had not the royal aegis been over him Boileau would not have dared to write the Satires.

“*C'est en verite un grand avantage.*” says madame de Sevigne, “*que d'être du premier ordre*”. By causing men of letters to mix with courtiers and to live in the polite world he rid them of bourgeois self-sufficiency and brushed away the rust of pedantry. Frequenting the society of well-bred people, of statesmen and women of fashion, they acquired not only manners, but mental qualities which are not met with in back parlors or even in the drawing-rooms of the merely rich. Under all these influences French literature became natural and national and rose to the highest excellence of art. Look at the names rising like

columns along the shores of time—Molière, Racine, Bruyère, Boileau, Bossuet, Bourdaloue.

It is not pretended that Canada has produced men like these. What is contended is that there is no reason why she should not. These men could not have matured without encouragement and congenial environment. Nothing, it is believed, is more certain than that the few men who stand prominently out in Canada, as literary men and nothing else, would, under kinder influence, have grown larger and produced better work, work more masculine and surer of itself. A certain lack of virile thought is perhaps due solely to want of knowledge of men; the shy air to absence of assured position. Before Canada will smile on her children, they have to be acclaimed elsewhere. To get any worthy acknowledgement they have to go abroad. We need not be surprised that once their wares are marketable, they fly to great literary centres; but we may be indignant that the praise of their own clime and country should for a moment wait for its cue from outside. The hour has surely sounded when we can assure ourselves it is not all third class in Canada.

Perrault's immediate object in asserting the superiority of the modern, over the ancients, was to flatter the king. The age of Louis the Great must be superior to all others in literature as in power and splendour: Bossuet superior to Demosthenes; Molière to Plautus; Racine to Euripides; France in advance of Greece and Rome; which was about as true as South's assertion regarding Eden that "an Aristotle was but the rubbish of an Adam and Athens but the rudiments of Paradise." When Racine, La Bruyère & Boileau with sincerity and modesty rebutted these assumptions, Perrault wittily pointed to their own writings in proof of his contention.

But there was more than flattery of the King in this claim on behalf of the moderns. It was partly the outcome of the growing scientific spirit impatient to all deference to ancient authority. It was also, however, the expression of the national feeling in and respecting the literature of France and as the growth of certain weeds attest cultivation, it was an evidence among many that the nationalization of French literature had been accomplished. So arrogant a claim required a nation behind it.

By and by the cancer of despotism began to tell on the character of Louis the Fourteenth. He had done great things for France and French literature. The zenith of his power is usually placed by French writers at the Treaty of Nimeguen. In fact it marks the beginning of his decline. We shall see him repeal the Treaty of Nantes and, approve of the tyranny of Louvois, and, no longer surrounded by the statesmen, soldiers, diplomats who had accomplished so much for him, engage in enterprises beyond his strength, which land him at last in the Treaty of Utrecht.

Two years after this he died. His glories were long over: his last years enveloped in narrow gloom, superstition and hypocrisy:

ruled by the de Maintenon woman who in turn was ruled by her servant. Such an eclipse : but that great literature which is connected with his era and which he had powerfully influenced remained and remains and has been the inspiration of the best minds in France ever since. It has survived the Encyclopaedists and weathered the shocks of romanticists and English schools of thought. The unity of the French national spirit created by that literature has suffered no diminution and, sickle in all things, the French heart is loyal to France.

What a country we have in Canada with its mighty rivers and lakes ; its mines ; its vast works ; its forests , its wheat areas —if some man only arise who will put it all for us into words that cannot die. Crowded trains sweeping from east to west, from west to east, bearing immigrants to settle on the plains ; carrying men of all races to the Klondyke, to the Kootenay, to Vancouver : ships there ready to take them to Australia, to China, to Japan : soon cables reaching through the depths of the Pacific and making a British girdle of the globe ; cities growing up across the continent like Jonah's gourd but not like it fading away ; the dreams of the great explorers realized beyond probability and hope—have we not here material for epopee ? There is amongst us a great deal of literary activity, a great deal of literary genius, but there is something wanting ; our literature needs stature ; some master influence to organize, unify and make it national. It would thus escape the thralldom of imitation. The Muse of a new world like ours should not drape herself on old world models ; she should drink inspiration from the coming years ; the expanding future is her illimitable field. We want songs that shall be as native and new as the waterfalls which tumble down our mountain sides ; breaths of epic grandeur like the cataracts of our rivers roaring with power, veiled and rainbowed with beauty and meanwhile driving street cars and illuminating towns, sending into our lamps at a touch the same light which spans the thunder cloud with silver terror and diamond bars. Where is the unifying, nationalizing influence to come from ? Who can as we say fill the bill ? Is it a fond impossible dream that of a first minister, fully equipped, commanding by political knowledge and force the democracy ; by genius and learning the students of thought and expression ; surrounding himself with literary men and seeing that they are brought into contact with statesmen and foreign men of eminence visiting Canada ; making them free of our best society ; developing a new world Madame de Rambouillet ; such a minister the security and bulwark of literary self respect suggesting, guiding, starting great themes, giving the cue to invention, would set moving a force whose beneficent effects, moral and material are incalculable. All this presupposes a comprehensive original mind—genius in a word. A very different man will make a good working premier ; but for the mom

ent we are thinking of such men as kindle their own fires and tread no beaten path.

The Athenian statesman speaking of the desire to achieve and to have our achievements acknowledged by our fellow countryman—says that the love of glory is the only passion which does not grow old. As long as a people is alive the desire to do heroically will burn within it. The noblest of all loyalties is that to a truly great statesman—a strong complete man—embodying in himself all the culture of his time, with imagination to conceive and will to act, captivating not by hollow glitter and specious pretense but by wisdom and truth, by splendid and fruitful deeds. “Let a man make the ballads of a nation and he need not care who makes the laws,” said a wise man known to Fletcher of Saltoun. A national literature is the most potent means to raise a nation to perfect unity and single ardour, and make possible that prime order of statesmanship, independent of petty clamps and ignoble props, superior to faction, superior to base expedients, strong in the foundation of a people’s confidence, crowned by enlightened opinion, drawing strength from the present, the past and the future—that future for which foresight works and whence great aims and schemes receive their best inspiration.

The Mother’s Son.

Oh God, the daily pity and the shame,
That man is yet the warrior in his lust,
Shall strike his fellow to the burial dust,
And cry to Him while taking blood for blame.
When shall the sweet of peaceful labor tame
The lion heart to let the saber rust,
True to the powers that should make him just,
And give to human brotherhood a name!
Meanwhile shall never falter hand or breath
To strike for good ; to rage till right be done ;—
A sorrowing heaven’s blessing on the strife,
And who shall ask to live in fear of death,
With every trace of sonhood’s glory gone,
Nor succour where he suckled into life.

JOHN FREDERIC HERBIN.



The Genesis of Our Paper.

I have been asked to write of the genesis of College Journalism at Acadia. I do so, but not without some degree of fear and trembling. No doubt those terrible men, the higher critics, whom we so often hear denounced by competent judges to-day, will have something to say about my article. Nevertheless, I will venture.

The first number of the *ATHENÆUM* was published in October, 1874. It has now just rounded out its first quarter century of existence. Like not a few other periodicals, it was born in troublous times. In College circles of that day, in this province, there was quite a tempest, which could not perhaps, have been contained in a teapot, over the question of a great provincial University. The Governors of Dalhousie College had taken the initiative in this matter. They invited the Governors of Acadia and Mount Allison Colleges to meet with them to take the matter into consideration. The evident desire was that Dalhousie being greater, at least in pretensions, should swallow up the other Colleges. The *Dalhousie Gazette* in the freshness of its youth, at that time, threw itself with great vigor into the advocacy of this scheme. Only one course seemed open then to the loyal students of Acadia. They must found a College journal to uphold the rights and dignities of their Alma Mater.

At the beginning of the College year in September '74, a resolution to establish such a periodical was introduced by the present writer unto that venerable debating society, which I am glad to know still thrives, and from which the paper took its name. After the expenditure of much eloquence, the resolution became law, and the project was launched. Astute Editors were appointed for the first issue, it being thought best at first, to change these every month. The names of these pioneers are as follows: J. M. Longley '75, D. H. Simpson '76, B. P. Shafner '77, and S. Welton '78. Strange to say, none of these gentlemen ever attained eminence in journalism. In an incredibly brief space of time, a large amount of copy was ready for the printer. This was not alone the product of the newly created Editors. Many facile pens were eager to join in the good work. Some wrote prose, nothing prosy about it, others ground out poetry so-called. Still others, gifted with wit and humor, prepared jokes, funnyisms, squibs and the like, some of which, like those of the present day, were dark sayings hard to be understood except by the initiated. There was no lack of copy for that first issue.

But our troubles were not ended yet. A printer was engaged in one of our lesser towns to give immortality to our carefully prepared and brilliant thoughts. But when the first edition came back to us it was universally felt that our best thought could not go to the public in such a garb as that. It was voted to destroy the edition, and engage a new printer. The Nova Scotia Printing Company of Halifax was engaged and in due time Vol. I No. I of the *ACADIA*

ATHENÆUM was after many vexatious delays ready for its expectant and highly intelligent readers.

Of the make-up of this first issue I need not further speak. Behold are not the bound copies of this journal to be found among so many other literary treasures in the college library? Of the classic motto which adorned the title page, a word may be permitted. Its selection was due to a class-mate of the present writer, who has since gained a large and eminent place in the literary, educational, and latterly in the diplomatic world Dr. J. G. Schurman—It ran thus "Tros Tyrusque mihi nullo discrimine agetur," and was first uttered I believe if memory serves me by the celebrated Dido after she mastered her little temper and when she succeeded in lifting herself above her petty disputes and jealousies.

But no sooner had our little bark been launched on the stormy billows of this troubled world then we were, from no fault of our own, plunged into a sea of controversy. The *Dalhousie Gazette* "pitched into," the *small* denominational, I think it called them sectarian, colleges. We were at once called upon to act on the defensive. With the second number of the paper W. G. Parsons, '75 was given the first place on the staff. His coadjutors were J. O. Redden, '76, H. Foshay '77, W. J. Stewart, '78. So ably did Mr. Parsons take up this gauntlet thrown down to us by the editors of the *Gazette* that he was continued editor-in-chief during the remainder of the college year. Intellectually he was one of the sons of Anak of those days. Of course we squelched, if I may use a word much in evidence at that time, these daring men who undertook to empty their quills at us. At all events the college was saved and the designs of ambitious Dalhousie were frustrated.

By the end of the college year June '75, this controversy had pretty well exhausted itself. The class of '75 many of whom had rendered excellent service on the paper in the days of its nativity left us. Mr. Schurman, winner that year of the Gilchrist scholarship, also left our ranks. But the paper lived on. For the second year of its life it had for Editors, D. H. Simpson '76, F. D. Crawley '76, J. Goodwin '77 and B. W. Lockhart '78. These remained at the helm during the entire year. Again the fates decreed that there should be war with the *Dalhousie Gazette*. A new bone of controversy was to be contended for. The scheme to unite the existing colleges having failed, a new project was set on foot. This was the establishment of a so-called paper university, modelled somewhat after the University of London. This was simply to consist of an examining board made up of leading professors in the different colleges, which should conduct examinations on all subjects embraced in a complete college curriculum and award all honors and diplomas, confer all degrees and perform all the functions of a chartered University; the colleges surrendering all such powers. This was ardently defended by the *Gazette* and quite as ardently opposed by the ATHENÆUM. Suffice it to say that

this project also failed but whether that failure was due to the opposition of the ATHENÆUM, deponent saith not.

But I fear I am trespassing too far on your valuable space. A reminiscence or two and I quit. One of the astute Editors of that early day, who shall be nameless, will never forget a piece of advice once given him by the honored president of the College, regarding the matter of making the columns of the paper interesting to the general public. Possibly, future editors would not do amiss to heed it occasionally. The good Doctor remarked that he thought sometimes the articles appearing in our columns were too long to be read, or to have interest for many readers. Whether it was a gentle way of saying, what now seems to the writer would have been only too true, that these productions would have stood a good deal of that process known by the classic term of "boiling down" I do not know. The editor's prompt answer was, "But Doctor, we feel when we take up a subject like exhausting it." I blush to say that the editor was not a Sophomore either, but a venerable Senior. A very significant, I had almost said characteristic, smile lit up the Doctor's usually serious and thoughtful face. He remarked, "But Mr. Blank, supposing you exhaust the readers or the audience before you have exhausted your subject?" The editor has often thought of that, as he has told me, and I have no doubt that since he is a public speaker his audiences have greatly profited by it.

Very interesting is the memory of the occasion when the monthly editions used to be sent to us in bulk from the printing office. Then a general rally of the students was held in the reading room. The papers were folded, labelled and prepared for delivery through the post office. The work lasted often to a late hour of the night, and I fear that recitations on the following day suffered therefrom.

Mention might be made of some of the choice spirits of those by-gone days. The college was small, in numbers at least, then. Of its dimensions in other directions it is not necessary to speak. The four classes put together would not number so many as a single class contains now. There was no college yell nor football in that primitive time. Sophomore rackets were unheard of. But notwithstanding these radical defects the names of at least some who afterwards became great may be found inscribed on the old rock on the rear of the college farm. The poetry for the columns of the paper was usually supplied by Messrs Lockhart and Harrington both genial spirits. The former of these is now a pulpit orator of large fame in New England, and the latter a most scholarly and devoted missionary in Japan. Time would fail to mention all the great ones. Among these were the brilliant and versatile Parsons, the scholarly and philosophic Rand, the profound Goodwin, the sweet spirited Crawley, the eloquent and talented Kelly with many others of like characteristics, of whom Acadia needs not to blush. But here is a good stopping place and I must give heed.

D. H. SIMPSON.

Some South African History.

The history of South Africa cannot be said to begin before the middle of the seventeenth century. Twenty three hundred years before this time, the Phoenicians are believed to have rounded the Cape, and Portuguese navigators, in the closing years of the fifteenth century, had given it the name which it still bears.

In the year 1650, the Dutch East Africa Company obtained a grant of the country from the government of Holland and the real history begins. Colonists were needed to develop the resources of the Country, and, when the Company failed to secure a sufficient number of Dutch, other colonists including Germans, Flemings, and Portuguese were invited in. In 1686 the Edict of Nantes was revoked, and thousands of Huguenots fled from France to various parts of the world, many going to South Africa. These colonists, from Holland, Germany, and France were the ancestors of the much talked-of Boers of our day.

More than a hundred years pass away, and we see these people, now well established in the country, attempting to free themselves from the control of Holland. Perhaps it is the revolutionary spirit of the times penetrating to this far off corner of the world which animates them; perhaps it is an inherent quality of their nature, for we see them, at different times in their later history, protesting against foreign control, and never hesitating to take up arms to preserve their independence. But the hopes of the colonists were doomed to disappointment, for, in 1795, a British fleet took possession of the country in the name of the Prince of Orange. British governors ruled the colony until 1802, when it was restored to Holland. But, in 1806, when Holland was allied with the enemies of England, a British fleet once more appeared off the coast, and took possession of the country, not in the name of the Prince of Orange, but in the name of the King of England. The Congress of Vienna, in 1815, awarded the colony to England, and the Boers' troubles began.

The Englishman's treatment of the natives may not always have been in conformity with the Golden Rule, but this much can be said, that, in general, the black man has fared better at his hands, than at the hands of the Boer. When the British assumed control of the country, and the Boers found that they must modify their harsh treatment of the natives, friction arose, which increased as the years went on. In 1834, slavery was abolished throughout the British Dominions, and the Boer could no longer endure, what he considered, the oppression of the tyrant. And so, between the years 1834 and 1837, thousands of Boers "trekked" northward. They wished to go out into the wilderness, where they could tend their flocks, sing their psalms, and abuse their slaves as they pleased. Making new homes in the unsettled parts of Africa is no easy task, and years of warfare with the natives followed. It was largely through the military genius of

Andries Pretorius, that, in 1838, the natives were defeated, and in, 1840, a Boer Republic was established in Natal.

In 1843, the British, who had been gradually extending their power northward, occupied Natal and the Boers again move on. They crossed the Drakensberg Mountains in two divisions, one, turning to the south, founded the Orange Free State, the other crossed the Vaal River and founded the Dutch Africa Republic. By the Sand River Convention of 1852, the independence of the Northern Republic was recognized by Great Britain, and in 1858 the name South African Republic was substituted for Dutch Africa Republic. The British had, in 1848, asserted their authority over the southern republic but this claim was abandoned in 1854. The period between 1855 and 1875 was a period of incessant warfare with the native tribes surrounding them, but the Boers were, on the whole successful and extended their borders at every opportunity. One fact must be noticed, that, throughout this whole period, the Boers persistently refused to treat the natives with common justice. In 1856, the "Apprentice Law" established a system of disguised slavery. In 1858, the "Fundamental Law" declared that "the people will admit of no equality of persons of color with the whites either in state or church." Other laws were passed from time to time all tending to the same end, the suppression of the natives.

In 1875, the Boers, no longer able to keep the native tribes in check, were threatened on every side. The treasury was empty, the State bankrupt, the Zulus and Bajedis were massing on the frontiers. To prevent the annihilation of the State, England intervened and Sir Theophilus Shepstone, by proclamation dated April 12th, 1877, annexed the Transvaal, and a British administrator was appointed. After the British had defeated the Zulu chief, and the danger had been removed, the Boers demanded their independence. They rebelled, and, after defeating the small British force then in the County, in two or three battles of which the most notable was Majuba Hill, Gladstone's Administration decided to give them their independence. A treaty was signed on March 21st 1881. The Republic was restored under the suzerainty of the Queen and a British resident was appointed. British subjects were guaranteed equality with the Boers.

In 1883 Paul Kruger, who had taken a leading part in the struggle for independence was elected President. The Boers objected to the wording of the Convention of 1881, and, after persistently requesting the British Government to draw up a new Convention, their request was acceded to in 1884. The word suzerainty was not mentioned in this Treaty, but by Article 4, the Transvaal was not allowed to negotiate a treaty with any other state than the Orange Free State, until the same had been approved by Great Britain. Articles 7 and 14 guaranteed to British subjects a certain measure of civil and religious equality with the citizens of the Trans-

vaal. In 1885 a British Protectorate was established over Bechuana-land thus preventing the Transvaal from extending its borders further to the west, and keeping open the trade route from Cape Colony to the Zambesi. In 1886 gold was discovered in various places, and goldminers, in great numbers, flocked to the Transvaal. The Uitlander population soon outnumbered the Boers, and the majority of the Uitlanders were British subjects. The Boers were afraid that, to give these Uitlanders the ballot would in time accomplish what the British had failed to do in 1881. And so fourteen years residence was required before the franchise was granted. They were not allowed to establish English schools, but were required to have their children educated in the degraded Dutch patois of the Boers. They were excessively taxed and various repressive measures were adopted. How great was the inequality in representation may be seen from the following figures :—

In 16 Boer districts with a male population 48,000 there were 16,000 voters returning 19 members to the Volksraad ; In 7 Uitlander districts with a male population of 121,000 there were 12,000 voters returning 9 members to the Volksraad. In 1895 Dr. Jameson with a small force of volunteers crossed the border hoping that the Uitlanders would rally to his support, and secure, by force of arms, those rights which they had failed to secure by petition. But they did not rise and Jameson's force was defeated and captured. This was Kruger's opportunity. After Jameson's defeat, his prestige was great, and, by liberal measures, he might have secured the confidence of the Uitlanders. But he did a most unwise thing in 1896 as he did on October 9th. 1899. Repressive measures followed the Jameson raid. Such measures as the Aliens' Expulsion Act, Public Meeting Act, Newspaper Act, might have been successful in the 18th century, but must certainly prove to be failures in the closing year of the nineteenth. The Act relating to the High Court and the Dynamite Monopoly were certainly grievances that could not be endured.

The negotiations, that were so abruptly terminated by the rash ultimatum of October 9th. are familiar to all. That rash act deprived the Boers of the sympathy of many sincere patriots in the British Dominions, and history must fix on them the responsibility for so much shedding of blood. "But", says some one, "was not Kruger justified by the British preparation for war?" Perhaps so; but the Boers have been preparing for the struggle since 1895, England since last summer. It is not the weakness of the Transvaal, that makes England so ready to interfere in behalf of the Uitlanders. The British Government would do the same were 200,000 Englishmen deprived of their just rights in any country on the globe, even though they were in the heart of Russia and surrounded by the Czar's millions. Though it may be through the shedding of blood, England has ever stood for equal justice, equal opportunities, and all that promotes civilization.

R. S. L.

A Vacation Memory.

Jaques : "I have gained my experience."

Rosalind : "And your experience makes you sad."—As You Like It.
Act 4, Scene 1.

In one of the later issues of the *ATHENÆUM* for 1898-99 appeared an article by a collegian, in which the students about to take their vacations were advised to devote themselves to poetry and meditation, with, if they could stand it, an occasional pipeful of tobacco. The article was well-loaded with quotations from various authors of repute, the writer no doubt following in the footsteps of those chaps-called "Confidence-men," who wear the garb of a deacon in order to better practice the tricks of a rogue. Among these quotations was one from Emerson. I, being only a Freshman, at once concluded that the article was written by a Senior, as I thought that none but Seniors had the right to quote from Emerson or Carlyle. A little investigation would have shown me that the article was not written by the one whom I had mentally charged with writing it, for, although it contained a quotation from Emerson, the quotation was placed between inverted commas, thus plainly declaring that the work was done at the hand of a clumsy amateur, probably a Sophomore. I thought, however, that it was written by a Senior and intended, on my arrival at my home in Mosstown, to carry out the instruction so kindly given.

The day after my return home I hastened to the shore with pipe, tobacco and anticipations. The pipe was a clay. It hangs now in my room at Chip Hall, tagged with blue ribbon and bearing the inscription, "a heart once pregnant with celestial fire." The tobacco I took with me was of that variety vulgarly known as black-jack, for there are no dude-smokers in simple old Mosstown I mentioned also taking a book with me. It was a copy of "*Idylls of the King*." As to my fourth accoutrement, which I styled anticipations, I can say that they were such as I never expect to again experience.

The sea was rolling lazily around the shore, striking the old gray boulders in a good-natured sort of a way and mumbling to itself like an easy-going, absent-minded professor. The sun poured a stream of heat over everything, a fact which a shrewd observer will as my story develops connect with it.

I was the only human being on the shore ; not indeed the only living being, for there were tens of thousands of perriwinkles hanging to the sides of the rocks, while sand-fleas hopped vigorously on the beach. But even were these minutiae of life absent no one can say that there is any absence of life at the sea-side. The sea is never dead. His voice, eternal as the song of the morning stars, varies only in its pitch. To-day it is crooning the love-songs of the

mermaids ; tomorrow it will vibrate to the wild harp of the storm as the winds strike it with their steel fingers. All this I thought as I whittled away at my wedge of tobacco. Then I suspended my sea-thoughts. Operations demanding concentration of attention were before me. The pipe must be filled and fired. This is no easy work for a novice. There is a proper amount of rolling of the weed and cramming of the bowl on which depends the success of the smoke. Then there is the lighting. To the veteran laborer in the ditch and the sailor who has sailed twice around the world the lighting of a pipe in the open air offers no difficulties. A sixty-knot breeze may make the flame waver a little, but ordinary puffs of wind are never taken into account. But to one who, like myself, has passed his days in libraries where there are no winds but the "winds of doctrine" (damaging only the light of reason) this task of striking a light by the seaside is one of the most trying imaginable. Thirty-seven matches were successively scratched, held over the pipe and, after many exhibitions of sputtering on their part and muttering on mine, thrown aside without my tobacco being scorched. The thirty-eighth however, did the work that the thirty-seven could not do. Thus, in the greater world of smoke and clay, thirty-seven are matches scratched vainly against—well—against the scratching-place of circumstances. It is only once in a while that smoke can be made to curl up from the pipe of Fortune.

But my pipe is going and I am leaning back against a boulder, puffing and philosophizing, philosophizing and puffing. Strange fancies flit across my brain ; stranger feelings are soon to flit across, yes and to hang across, my stomach. But let us have the fancies while they come. The hour is drawing nigh in which I shall say I have no pleasure in them. My soul seems to float aloft with the smoke, fit emblem of the soul ! My body remains below with the pipe, fit emblem of the body ! Thus the minutes pass. I open my Tennyson and read about "Elaine the fair, Elaine the lovable, Elaine the lily-maid of Astolat." I read the poem through, puffing all the while. It is a beautiful poem, as are all the idyls,—as beautiful as Elaine herself on that sad voyage to Camelot—and as lifeless. Tennyson *lives* in his "In Memoriam" and "Maud" and "Locksley Hall," for they are personal.— — —My reflections are cut short once more, for I have smoked the tobacco to its bitter end.

It is time I think to return home. I rise to carry out my thought, but the change in posture is accompanied by a change in mood. Where now is all my poetry and dreaming, and drowsy-humming sea ? "Melted into air, into thin air." "Yes, 'we are such stuff as dreams are made of.'" I at that moment was a compound of a dozen assorted nightmares. How I got home I to this hour know not. My sub-consciousness reminds me of meeting two or three people on the street and of hearing the following conversation.

"I suppose he is too proud to speak to us."

"Yes, them college fellers are some stuck up. They think because they know a little Greek and have a collar as high as a light-house they can lord it over us."

"But then—is quite a student. Look how pale he is. That stands for intellect."

The next morning aunts and uncles and all concerned called at my home, for the report had become current that I was stricken with nervous prostration. An informal inquest was held and a verdict brought in which said: "Of making any books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. *Therefore* the culprit shall not be allowed for the remainder of his vacation, to read any book, magazine, newspaper or manuscript whatever." Can you imagine, dear reader, (I here *mean* reader and not that indefinite speller of words so-called), can you imagine the horrors of my bookless world? For four months all the words that I saw were those on shop doors, or on a farmer's fence, proclaiming the merits of Pink Pills and Somebody-or-other's Tea. All other literature was tabooed. My old college books, those dogeared, tattered comrades of my Freshman days, were hearsed in a soap-box and marked Wolfville. All newspapers were burned. I was not even allowed to read the Sunday-School leaflets. Wherever I went a sister or an aunt attended to keep me from opening a book that some neighbor, being haply unwarned of my approach, had left lying on the drawing-room table. How I thirsted after print. A quotation from an old favorite made my mouth water. I would listen through a whole sermon in hopes that the preacher would use a phrase of my reading days. Then would conjure up the words as they appeared in the book till I felt that I had them printed on the air in front of me; but how tame was this attempt at self-deception. It was like the voice of a chum heard over the telephone, whose cheerfulness is shriveled by the distance into a snarl. The "Pink Pills" signs formed my library; they saved me from the mad-house. I am going to send Dr. Williams my photo taken "before and after" with a long account of my case. Having nothing else to do I settled into a gloomy resignation, for life had lost its charm, and the charm had lost its life.

"It might be months, or years, or days,

I kept no count, I took no note,

I had no hope my eyes to raise

And clear them of their dreamy mote.

At last men came to set me free;

I asked not why and recked not where;

It was at length the same to me

Lettered or letterless to be.

I learned to lose despair."

And so, now that I am back at Wolfville, with all the sages of all the ages within consulting distance, I shall probably not open a single book.

"So much a long communion tends
To make us what we are :—even I
Regain my freedom with a sigh."

The Alaskan Boundary.

The dispute over the Alaskan boundary has claimed the attention of Canadian statesmen at intervals during a period of a quarter of a century. It owes its origin to an attempt made by the treaty of 1825 at settling the differences which had arisen between Great Britain and Russia as to the extent of Alaska. This Treaty cannot be said to more than attempt, however, at defining the boundary line between that country and Canada, for its vague and faulty construction has led to the present dispute.

When the United States bought Alaska in 1867, it of course bought the territory as defined by the treaty of 1825. Though urged at an early date to take proper measures to have the line permanently located, the government of the United States did not consider it of sufficient importance to take any action until the year 1886. The subsequent discovery of the rich mining resources of these northern regions has made it imperative that it should be decided to whom the disputed territory belongs. The larger portion of the boundary line is located by a line following the 141st meridian of west longitude from the summit of Mt. St. Elias northward. Over this there is and can be no dispute. The remaining portion of the line, stretching from Mt. St. Elias southward is defined by Articles III and IV of the treaty. These Articles read as follows :—

Article III.—"The line of demarcation between the possessions of the high contracting parties, upon the coast of the continent, and the islands of America to the northwest shall be drawn in the manner following. Commencing from the southmost point of the island called the Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 50 degrees 40 minutes north latitude, and between the 131st and 133rd degree of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich,) the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel as far as the point of the continent, where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; from this last mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the coast as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude of the said meridian : and finally from the said point of intersection the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its pro-

longation as far as the frozen ocean, shall form the limit between the Russian and British possessions on the continent of America on the northwest."

Article IV.—"With reference to the line of demarcation laid down in the preceding article it is understood

1st. That the island called Prince of Wales Island shall belong wholly to Russia.

2nd. That wherever the summit of the mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the windings of the coast, and which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom."

Article III is evidently faulty, for, as will be seen by a reference to a map of the country, the line cannot "ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel" unless it first run a long distance—about one hundred miles—directly eastward. Such being the case, the Canadian claim is that Clarence Channel, not Portland Channel is meant by the treaty. This claim seems to be further substantiated by the fact that Portland Channel does not extend as far north as the 56th degree of north latitude, the place where according to the treaty, it should commence to run parallel to the coast.

According to the latter part of Article III this part of the line should run parallel to the coast following the summits, until it intersects the 141st degree of west longitude, which it does at Mt. St. Elias. At the time the treaty was formed, it was thought there was a range of mountains along the whole of this coast and running parallel to it. But since no such range exists, the United States claims that it is necessary to fall back on the second part of Article IV, which says that in no case shall the distance of the boundary line from the coast be more than ten leagues. Accordingly the line on American maps is drawn on the principle that the line shall be ten leagues from the coast, and follows its more important windings. Canadians reply that it is very easy to draw the line from peak to peak along the more or less lofty mountains of the coast, and further, that since the word "range" was not used, this is plainly the intention of the treaty.

In doing this, the line would cut across some of the deeper inlets of the coast, thus giving an outlet to the sea, which, of course is of prime importance to Canada. That it was the original intention that there should be ports within British territory, may be seen by Article X of the treaty, which provides that "every British or Russian vessel navigating the Pacific Ocean, which may be com-

pelled by storm or otherwise to take shelter in the ports of the respective parties, shall be at liberty to refit therein" etc.

Such is in brief an outline of the more important features of the dispute : Since no agreement can be arrived at by the two interested nations Canada, has proposed the arbitration of the whole dispute on terms similar to those on which the Venezuelan dispute was arbitrated. This the United States has refused to do unless the important towns of Dyea and Skagway should be ceded to her as a condition precedent to arbitration ; and after many negotiations the Canadian government has agreed to this on condition that Pyramid Harbour shall be given to this country. Whether these proposals will result in anything definite remains to be seen. For the good of both countries it is to be hoped that the effort to reach a settlement will prove successful. In the present gloom feeling between the countries involved, there should be the brightest omen that this result will be accomplished.

E. H. C.

Intercollegiate Y. M. C. A. Conference.

The tenth annual Intercollegiate Conference of Young Men's Christian Association met this year with the Association of Mt. Allison University. There were present at the Conference, in addition to the home Association twenty-five delegates from other institutions, the University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie and Acadia each being represented. The delegates from these colleges reached Sackville on Thursday, Nov. 16th, and in the evening of that day were publicly welcomed to Mt. Allison by Mr. H. C. Rice, President of the Association at Mt. Allison, and by Dr. Allison, who extended a welcome on behalf of the Faculty of the University. From the first the delegates were made to feel perfectly at home. In response to the welcoming words of Dr. Allison and Mr. Rice, representatives of the Association made brief replies expressing their hopes of great spiritual benefits from the Conference.

On Friday morning the business of the Conference was taken up, and continued throughout that day and Saturday forenoon. Valuable papers prepared by members of the various Associations, were presented and discussed. These proved a source of much information concerning the different phases of Association work in the colleges and threw light upon many of the difficult problems connected therewith. A paper written by Mr. D. L. McKay of Dalhousie on, "The value to our Association of Intercollegiate fellowship" expressed many truths that became more apparent as the Conference proceeded. Those whose privilege it was to be present will heartily agree with the writer of the paper in the high estimate he

places upon such intercollegiate relations. "The demands of the day upon our Christianity." "How to meet them" was the subject of a paper presented by Mr. A. V. Dimock, of Acadia. In this paper were clearly set forth a few of the fundamental characteristics which the world has a right to expect in Christian students. Discussion of this paper was followed by a paper by Mr. Dunfield of the U. N. B. on, "The conditions of receiving the Holy Spirit." Three conditions mentioned were ; Appreciation of God's blessing. Abandonment of Sin, and Consecration.

At the afternoon session, Mr. Q. Genge of Mt. Allison read an excellent paper on "The relations of College students to missions," and Mr. Layton of Dalhousie presented a paper on "Mission Study Classes." In these papers and the discussions which followed them, many interesting and instructive items of information were noted, which can hardly fail to be of value to those who heard them. Other papers read and discussed were as follows :—

"How best to transmit the missionary interest of College Associations to Town and Railroad Associations," by Mr. G. F. McNally, of the U. N. B., and, "To what extent is there a lack of interest in Bible Study? Its causes and cure," by Mr. V. L. Miller, of Acadia. These papers and discussions were frequently varied by devotional exercises, which were especially helpful.

Other important features of the Conference were the addresses delivered by Professors Andrews and Paisley, and by Rev. D. J. Fraser, of St. John, and Dr. Sprague, Pastor of the Methodist Church at Sackville. Professor Andrews' address in Lingley Hall on the subject, "The Christian student in College" was a masterly production, and of immense practical value to college men. It was emphasized the fact that a student's college experience is a most important part of his life. It is full of great possibilities. There is no place in which it is more worth a man's while to be a Christian. Very few men become Christians after graduation. Then, colleges are hot beds of character. Character grows very quickly, either good or bad. Professor Andrews urged the students to be out and out, brave in defence of right, honest in all things, and to think nobly of themselves, of life, and of God.

On Saturday morning Professor Paisley presented an exposition of the Epistle to the Colossians, treating in a brief comprehensive manner the history of the Church of Colosse, and the circumstances which called forth the epistle. These were followed by a presentation of a few leading truths of the book.

The theme of Mr. Fraser's discourse on Sunday morning was, "The argument for religion." The speaker based his remarks upon the words of 2 Cor. 4 ; 18. There are many truths other than those which appeal to the coarser senses of men. The things that are unseen are even more real than those that are seen. The fact that some

people fail to perceive certain truths does not destroy the validity of those truths. Because some are not able to distinguish between Old Hundred and Home, Sweet Home, the laws of harmony are not therefore non-existent. We pity the man who says he sees no beauty in a great poem, but we will not tolerate the dogmatism which asserts there is no beauty in poetry. The fact that some persons cannot see beauty and truth in the religion of Christ, does not prove that Christianity is barren of these things, but rather that such persons are blind.

Dr. Sprague's discourse on Sunday evening was much enjoyed by those who heard it. Taking the words of Christ as found in Matt. 4 : 19, the preacher clustered about them several interesting and helpful truths concerning following Christ.

The last service of the Conference was one of farewell. It was held at the close of the Sunday evening service in the Methodist Church. After a few remarks by Senator Wood, of Sackville, Mr. H. W. Hicks, representative of the International Committee, who with Mr. Fraser Marshall, Secretary of the Maritime Committee was a great source of strength to the Conference, representatives from the visiting associations spoke briefly of the stimulus each had received from the Conference. With the singing of "Blest be the tie that binds" in friendship circle the Conference was ended to meet next year the Y. M. C. A. of Dalhousie.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the ATHENÆUM.

Sir:—There are many things in connection with the rules and regulations of our college that are enigmas to the ordinary student. He would like to ask the *why* and the *wherefore* of these things but believing that supreme wisdom ordained them, holds his peace. May I, Mr. Editor, through the medium of your paper and from the shadow of a *nom-de-plume* ask a few questions in the hope that someone who knows may answer.

According to the Calendar, the Christmas vacation lasts from the 20th of December to the 10th. of January—a space of three weeks. And what have we done to deserve it since only eleven weeks of study have preceded? The most of us do not open our books during the holidays and being naturally endowed with a marvellous faculty of forgetting find that it requires at least a week's work to regain the ground on which we stood before vacation. Thus some four weeks are lost. Is not this a very serious break in the year's work? Someone may say that many of our students earn money by preaching during the holidays and so need the extra time. But why should the whole college suffer for the convenience of these? It is an interesting fact that not only are some of our preachers from one to

three weeks late at the beginning of the year, but it also takes them the whole month of January to straggle in after vacation. Holidays must needs be very extensive to meet the requirements of these gentlemen.

Again, our examinations are conducted on strictly original plans. Twice a year a fortnight is set apart for this function, and all classes are suspended. Now, sir, in view of the fact that our examinations are only two hours long, there is no reason so far as I can see, why two papers could not be written each day—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Thus the examinations would be completed in three days, and the mental strain would not be nearly so serious as a fortnight's prolonged agony.

There is further an economic reason calling for a change in this respect. Although the two sets of examinations could be written in six days, four weeks are set apart for this purpose, or in other words, three weeks are worse than wasted. It certainly costs each student three dollars a week to live in Wolfville, and there are about one hundred and forty students. This, then, means an expenditure of at least \$1260 each year, for which there is absolutely no value received.

And the question has still another aspect. Everyone knows that a student must continually revise his work. Not by any means is he to be reckoned a student who merely prepares his lessons from day to day. Now when there is an interval of two or three days between each examination, many men who otherwise would choose the better part, are tempted to postpone all reviewing until the delightful fortnight shall come. A man with a good capacity for cramming can almost wholly neglect certain subjects until this time, and still make a good mark in them. Such work, of course, is little better than useless. The college authorities, then, instead of opening wide the doors for the admission of this very great evil, should devise some means to check it. Very few of us are students in the true sense of the word, but the consciousness that no days of grace are allowed before examinations, would cause most of us to brace up considerably.

Although having many other things to say, I must forbear at this season, trusting that at some future time I may be again permitted to trespass on your space.

KRITO.

TO THE EDITOR ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

Dear Sir:

I have read with deep interest and pleasure, the first number of the ATHENÆUM for the year. As I am deeply interested in all that has to do with Acadia, I wish to congratulate you on the improvement in appearance and general tone you have already brought about. The changes you suggest, while they may not be approved by a few of the undergraduates, yet will, I am sure, be heartily en-

dorsed by the bulk of the students and by the Alumni and friends of the college in general.

A college paper, to my mind, should not simply reflect the life of the college, but should also furnish an ideal which will tend constantly to elevate the moral and intellectual life of the college community.

The local column probably should not be altogether discarded, but certainly the wit should be clean and manly and free from vulgar personalities.

I admire greatly the courage of yourself and your staff, and trust you will receive without reserve the moral and financial support you will need in realizing your most worthy ideals.

Faithfully yours,

A. A. SHAW.

Windsor, N. S., Nov. 28th.

Our Exchanges

EDITOR : W. E. McNEILL.

Not the least important of the many good results arising from College Journalism is the establishment of a closer relationship between our different centres of learning. The college paper represents not merely the editors, nor the student body alone but professors and graduates as well. Some tangible expression of a school's inner life and of the life which it is capable of producing is apparent on every page. For this reason we most heartily welcome our Exchanges. Through them we get a glimpse of other ideals and are encouraged in the pursuit of our own : we learn something of the difficulties encountered and successes achieved in sister institutions, and we take heart and shoul der our burdens again.

The *University of Ottawa Review* has no equal among our exchanges as a literary paper. Short stories written by undergraduates constitute an enjoyable feature ; while the columns headed "Among the Magazines" and "Book Notices" are full of interest.

We are always glad to get the *Dalhousie Gazette*. The distinguishing feature of the October number is the first installment of an address by Professor McGregor on "The Utility of Knowledge-Making as a Means of Liberal Training." It is an exceedingly thoughtful and closely reasoned article which every college man should read carefully. The relative value of Classical and Scientific studies as means of mental training is discussed in a most original way. The report of this address is continued in the November issue and the end is not yet. This is unfortunate because the article loses unity and interest by being cut up.

The editors of the *Excelsior* and of the *Prince of Wales College Observer* are to be congratulated on the improved appearance of their respective papers. The November issue of the *Excelsior* is quite interesting but the editorials are weak consisting merely of a series of jottings. The *Observer* devotes rather much space to humor and local happenings. Would it not be better to make it more of a literary paper?

The *Argosy* has undergone substantial changes and is now one of the neatest papers that come to our table. The October number is almost double the ordinary size. We think, however, that the article entitled "Ties Growing Stronger" might well have been omitted. The charge of disloyalty against the government is made in the party press for party reasons and has no place in a college paper. An undue amount of space is devoted to the Class of '99. "The Library Table" is a new department but too much cannot be said by way of commendation. The editor in charge undertakes to review such new books as may be added to the Library from time to time. Not only is this column valuable from a literary standpoint but it will stimulate the students to read the books that are reviewed.

The copies of the *McGill Outlook* which have come to hand approach nearer the standard of excellence to which the McGill paper should attain than any of recent years. Heretofore there have been very few contributed articles, the *Outlook* being essentially a recorder of college doings.

The *University Monthly* for November reflects credit upon the Fredericton men. It strikes a happy medium between a purely literary paper and one devoted solely to chronicling the events of college life. From cover to cover it is interesting not only to the student community, but to all the friends of the University.

The *Colby Echo* comes along weekly. As a rule its columns are filled with accounts of local happenings and the paper cannot be of much interest to any except resident students.

The *King's College Record* for October contains much very readable matter. We are glad to learn of a greatly increased attendance at Kings and to know that everything points to a most successful year.

Other exchanges received are: *Trinity University Review*, *Bates Student*, *College Review*, *College Index*, and *Niagara Index*.

De Alumnis.

EDITOR : S. S. POOLE.

In looking over the names of those who have been graduated from ACADIA, one cannot but note the large number who have risen to positions of great trust and influence and attained enviable reputations as scholars. Among these the name of Charles H. Day is by no means the least.

Mr. Day graduated with the class of '86 after four years of faithful and thorough work. He was not one, of that too large class, whose chief ambition is to possess the B. A. degree and who study a subject merely because the curriculum requires it, diligently setting themselves to the task (?) of forgetting it entirely after the examination has been passed. Day was actuated by a higher, nobler motive, the motive that marks the true student. The degree of B. A. should stand for sound scholarship; in his case it did.

On graduation Mr. Day taught, for one year, the branches of Mathematics and Latin in Horton Collegiate Academy. Resigning this position he went to Brown University, receiving from that institution the degree of B. A. in 1888. During the years 1888-90 he studied in the regular Classic Course at Newton Theological Seminary. In 1890 he received from his *Alma Mater* the degree of M. A. in course. The following year was spent in Germany studying in the Philosophical department of the University of Berlin where he made an exceptionally good record.

Returning to Canada in 1891, Mr. Day assumed the pastorate of the Quebec Baptist Church which he retained till 1896. A preacher of marked ability and eloquence, his labor here was attended with much success. During his pastorate, the church enjoyed a season of prosperity in both spiritual and material things. In '93 McMaster University conferred upon him the M. A. degree, *ad. eun. grad.* Closing his labors with the Quebec Church in 1896, he entered upon a Post Graduate course at Brown University for the degree of Ph. D. He studied only one year, however, at the close of which he received an M. A. from this institution, then a call coming to him from Shurtleff College, Upper Alton, Ill., he accepted it, and for two years filled the chair of Modern Languages and was also Principal of the Shurtleff College Academy. In 1899 he resigned his position at Shurtleff intending to do some teaching at Brown University and also to complete his work for Ph. D. Owing to ill health he has been obliged to abandon his plan for the present. After a thorough recuperation, he hopes to resume his work with renewed energy next autumn.

Mr Day is one of ACADIA's most illustrious Alumni and his past record is but a pledge for the future.

Miss Annie M. MacLean, who was graduated in '93 and received the M.A. in course in '94, is one of ACADIA's most famous daughters. While in college she easily maintained first-class rank and was graduated with honours.

After graduating Miss MacLean spent one year in a Seminary in Atlanta Ga. teaching Science and Mathematics. At the close of a successful year's work in this school she accepted the position of Preceptress and Instructor of Latin in Mt. Carroll Seminary, Ill. This is a school of high rank, and acknowledged to be one of the best for young women in that part of the United States. In 1896 she gave up her position in Mt. Carroll and in October of the same year entered the University of Chicago receiving in July, 1897, the degree B. A. M.

The time between August 1897 and April 1898 was spent in Nova Scotia gathering materials about the Acadians, which were to be used later in her doctor's thesis "A Study of the Acadian Element in the Population of Nova Scotia." It is to be published soon and will be of value to those interested in the study of Acadian life.

Returning to the University of Chicago April 1st., '98, Miss MacLean worked continuously till August 12th. '99 when she was given her examinations for the degree of Ph. D. These were passed successfully and she was graduated with a high standing. At the present time she is Instructor in Sociology in the Royal Victoria College of McGill University, Montreal, being the first person to give instruction in that subject there and also the first woman to lecture to fourth year students, men and women together.

Miss MacLean has also been a frequent contributor to different journals on this continent, several important articles having been written by her. Among these may be mentioned: "Factory Legislation for Women in the United States." published in the American Journal of Sociology Sept. '97, "Two Weeks in Departmental Stores," in the same Journal, May '97. This article attracted attention and brought fame to its author. It was reprinted in pamphlet form by the Consumers League of Illinois and several thousand copies sold. An extensive review of the article appeared in the American Review of Reviews in July 1899; in fact there was not a paper of any consequence in the United States that did not refer to it. Other articles are—"Homes for Working Women in Large Cities," *Charities Review*, July '99. "Factory Legislation for Women in Canada," *Journal of Sociology*, Sept. '99.

Miss MacLean is also favorably known as a lecturer and from February to May, 1898 in addition to her other work, delivered twenty-eight lectures chiefly in Chicago. ACADIA is justly proud of her and will follow her work with interest.

Obituary.

It is our sad duty to refer to the death of one of ACADIA's graduates. James E. Ferguson, '94, died in Toronto Nov. 5th of typhoid fever.

At the close of his course in ACADIA, Mr. Ferguson went to Toronto to study Law. He had been admitted to the bar and had entered on the practice of his profession with the prospect of attaining success in it.

He is remembered at ACADIA as an earnest and thoughtful student, interested in every department of College life, and strongly attached to his friends. He joined the Bloor Street Baptist Church soon after going to Toronto. We sympathize with his family and friends who are mourning on account of what seems an untimely close of a life that gave so much promise of usefulness and distinction.



The Month.

EDITORS: A. L. BISHOP AND MISS J. BOSTWICK.

One of those social events which are anticipated with delight, and remembered with pleasure, claimed the attention of the students of the three institutions on Friday evening, Oct. 20th. The event in question was the "At Home" given by the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. of Acadia University by which they followed out the laudable and time-honoured custom of giving the first general reception after the opening of the College Year. Under the supervision of an efficient decoration committee, College Hall and the Museum presented an inviting appearance. An air of ease and freedom pervaded the scene, and pleasant acquaintances of the past were renewed and many new ones formed, leaving pleasant recollections till time in its slow flight shall bring us another similar social gathering. As, at 10.30, the piano struck up the knell-like strains of the "National Anthem," it seemed as though the evening had just begun, and the company dispersed, taking with it the spirit of mirth and jollity, and leaving with the ghosts of receptions past, new tales of glancing eyes, and beating hearts to hold in secret.

From October twenty-first to twenty-third, the Y. W. C. A.'s of the College and Seminary were visited by Miss Elizabeth Ross, one of the Travelling Secretaries of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions. By meeting the chairman of each committee personally Miss Ross was able to suggest new methods of work, and new lines of activity for the societies. The meeting on Saturday evening was most thoughtful; Miss Ross' address, earnest and inspiring, was calculated to broaden and deepen the interests of all who listened. Canadian Y. W. C. A.'s. cannot but be manifestly helped by the visits of such a Secretary as Miss Ross.

On Friday afternoon, November seventeenth, the Propylæum Society held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs Haley. The meeting opened in the usual manner, the President in the chair, and after the reading of the minutes the Society proceeded to the discussion of the following programme ;—

Paper :	Women in Universities.	Miss Elizabeth Corwell.
Trio :	The Misses Crandall, Bentley, and Perkins.	
Paper :	Girls in Northern Colleges.	Miss Edith Rand.
Quartette :	The Misses Crandall, Colpitts, Bentley, and Perkins.	
Paper :	The Southern College Girl.	Miss Katherine McLeod.
Synopsis :		Miss Elliott.
Critic's Report.		Miss Freeman.

Upon the completion of the programme, the Society adjourned to the drawing-room, where dainty refreshments were served and a most pleasant social hour enjoyed. The members of the Propylæum record this afternoon spent with their charming hostess, the most pleasant meeting in the history of their society.

A match game of foot-ball between Horton Collegiate Academy, and a picked team of the Halifax Y. M. C. A. was played on the Campus, on Friday afternoon, Nov. 10th., which resulted in a victory for the first mentioned team. The game was a good exhibition of foot-ball, and was exceedingly exciting and interesting throughout. Score 3-0. Mr. E. N. Rhodes kept good his previous reputation as an ideal referee, refereeing the game to the complete satisfaction of both teams.

Undoubtedly the most enthusiastic and interesting meeting of the ATHENÆUM Society during the month occurred on Saturday evening, Nov. 11th. The annual debate between the Freshmen and Sophomores took place that evening, when, "Whether "Britain's claim to Suzerainty in the Transvaal is tenable or not" was discussed. The affirmative side was ably maintained by Messrs Morse, Peitzsch, Berry and Spidell for the Freshmen, while Messrs. Steele, McFadden, Verge, and Baird as ably presented the negative side of the question for the Sophomores.

The second lecture on the course given by the Professors of the University was delivered by Prof. R. V. Jones, Ph. D on Monday evening, Nov. 20th., his subject being, "The Greeks and Romans and the Future of Life." Notwithstanding the disagreeable rain of the day and evening, a good audience greeted the Doctor and the excellent attention, and appreciative applause testified to the high value of the lecture. We are pleased to announce that it is to be published in full in the columns of this paper. So that any words of praise upon the wealth of thought it contained, and upon the beautiful language in which it was clothed is unnecessary.

Football is the characteristic sport during the first part of the Collegiate Year. Acadia has always been an enthusiastic promoter of the

game, and she has won a reputation for perseverance and frequent triumph over circumstances that has called forth praise from her opponents, and admiration from her students. This year Acadia presented in her men, perhaps more than the usual nerve and muscle, and under the efficient leadership, and untiring efforts of Captain Rhodes, our team put up a fight with opposing teams, that will long be remembered with considerable satisfaction.

The first game was played with Truro, reference to which was made in our first issue. The second game was played with Mount Allison on their grounds, on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 7th, resulting in a draw game with no score. The two teams at that time were pretty evenly matched—Acadia having a decided advantage in the first half, and Mount Allison in the second half. The grounds were in a very bad condition, and the game was a forward game throughout. Our boys, although they had travelled from Wolfville to Sackville and had played that day, came back to Truro that same night, and at 3 p. m. on Wednesday lined up against the Truro fifteen. This was an exceedingly fast game throughout, and more especially so during the first fifteen minutes till Acadia scored, but failing to kick a goal, the score stood 3-0, and remained such till the close of the game. It was a sharp forward game and the principal gains were made by the grand rushes of our forwards. In the second half the ball was in Acadia's territory not more than two minutes.

The final game of the season was played with Dalhousie on the College Campus on the afternoon of Tuesday, Nov. 14th. The grounds were in a bad condition on account of the recent fall of snow, but as Acadia had not been on the Campus with the grounds in this condition, it was as fair for the visiting team as for Acadia. The students of the institutions and the people of the town turned out in force to witness the grandest game of the season. At two o'clock sharp the teams lined up as follows:

ACADIA		DALHOUSIE	
Schurman	Full-Back	Roach	
Steele	Half-Backs	Hebb	
Boggs		Cock	
Bill		Crocker	
Crandall		McKenzie	
McLeod	Quarter-Backs	Hauboldt	
Duval		Murray	
Rhodes		Jardine	
Wright		Hall	
Huntley	Forwards	Potter	
Archibald		Young	
Richardson		Malcolm	
Harrison		Lindsay	
Giffin		Faulkner	
Dickson		Cummings	

The game was a fast forward game throughout and a most excellent exhibition of foot-ball. The visitors who had the credit of hav-

ing the strongest forward line in the Maritime Provinces, and the strongest in the history of Dalhousie, found in Acadia's team a line of forwards that they could not shove. Acadia's forwards proved themselves the stronger. The Dalhousie men handled themselves in fine form, and put up a gentlemanly, and creditable game. Every man on Acadia's team played his game in a most creditable manner though especial mention may be made of the strong playing of Huntley, Wright, Richardson, Crandall and Duval. Our boys speak in the very highest term, of the referee, Mr. J. A. McKinnon of Halifax, for the fairness of his decisions in the three games. It remains to congratulate Captain Rhodes on the skilful and efficient manner in which he handled his men and although Acadia suffered defeat, she has good reason to feel proud of the foot-ball team of '99, which is generally conceded to be the best team she has had for years. Captain Rhodes speaks in the highest terms of the treatment accorded our team by Capt. Dobson and the students of Mt. Allison, and of Capt. Biglow and citizens of Truro. Messrs. Suckling and Chase of this town presented the team with a box of chrysanthemums, which gift, it is needless to say, was greatly appreciated. One most gratifying characteristic of the foot-ball of this season was the extremely cordial and friendly relations that existed between Acadia and Mt. Allison, Truro, and Dalhousie. All the games were free from any objectionable features.

Locals

EDITORS: I. M. BAIRD AND MISS EDITH RAND.

Bless his little heart.

And still "Hot Time" is with us.

A. F. B. (In great perplexity) What pun shall I make in Parliament to-night?

Senior. Tell them A Foolish Bill is before them.

Soph. If I let my mustache grow, do you suppose anybody Can notice it by Xmas?

Fr. (to new Seminary girl at reception) Are you fond of fish-balls?

New Sem. (apologetically) I don't know; I have never attended any.

Prof. (in Soph English explaining passage from Milton) When is the moon said to be wandering?

Sl-p. When she is full.

Prof. in Logic (after explaining a point for the sixth time) Do you understand that now?

Juniors in chorus. No Sir?

Prof. Well *you are stupid.*

Freshman B-n-e-ft. I have another invitation for Friday evening but if we are going to have a reception at the Sem.. I can decline it *owing to a previous engagement, made subsequently.*

Rh-d-s. (in Parliament) I move that we *dam* the flowing utterance of Bill
Member of Gov't. He would soon overflow the Rhodes.

Dy-s. Laurie, did you ever hug a girl?
L. *Nun.*

Prof. (in Classics) What's a spondee
Soph. Two long.
Prof. Give example.
Soph. S-h-r-a-s feet.

Scene on campus, day of Acadia-Dalhousie foot-ball game.
(Close of first half.)
First Sem. Well that was an exciting game. I am so sorry it is over.
Second Sem. Yes, wildly exciting, but who won?

S-h-rm-n (after preaching a forty-five minute sermon) It took me just fifteen minutes to prepare that sermon.
Deacon (looking with wonder) I thought so.

Junior. How do you expect to pass on Latin?
Freshman. I'm going to take the "grotesque" standing; don't you know.

Prof. (to Bl—k—r) Have you ever seen the rays of the sun change colour.
Bl—k—r. When I came from the Seminary the air turned blue.
St—r. Its a hard case when ladies are found picking *locks*. I'll have to go to the barber's now.

B-k-r after being entertained in Sackville at the Ladies' College, during the late Convention, said that he believed the Methodists *would* go to Heaven after all; they were *so* nice.

Over-heard at the foot-ball game.
Young Lady (excitedly) "Just give the ball to *Gar.* and see what he can do with it."

ADVICE DEDICATED TO THE PROFESSORS.

Be kind to the Seniors for when they were young
Who loved thee as fondly as they
They caught the learned accents that fell from thy tongue,
And joined in thy innocent glee
Be kind to the Seniors for now they are old
Their locks intermingled with grey
Their footsteps are feeble, once fearless and bold
The Seniors are passing away.

Be kind to the Juniors for lo, on their brow
 May traces of sorrow be seen,
 With essays to write and supplementaries to take
 Now they are not what they have been.
 Remember the Juniors to thee will they pray
 As long as remaineth their breath,
 That they may get through, make just forty-five
 E'en down to the valley of death.

Be kind to the Sophomores their hearts will be sad
 If the smile of thy joy be withdrawn ;
 And Sophomore rackets and sprees will be had
 If the dew of affection be gone :
 Be kind to the Sophomore whoever you are
 The love of a Sophomore will be
 An ornament purer and richer by far
 Than pearls from the depths of the sea.

Be kind to the Freshman not many may know
 The depth of a true Freshman's love,
 The wealth of their nature lies fathoms below
 The surface that sparkles above :
 Thy kindness to them will bring thee sweet hours,
 And spare thee hard trials and frowns
 Affection will weave thee a garland of flowers,
 More precious than wealth or renown.

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