

W D Grayhall

Vol. VIII.

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McGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

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UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Vol. VIII.]

MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 1st, 1885.

[No. 6.

McGill University Gazette

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The UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

Editorials.

THE EDITORS' APOLOGY.

With this number closes the connection of the present staff of editors with THE UNIVERSITY GAZETTE; and as the manner in which they have fulfilled their trust has been severely criticized, it seems meet that the reasons, which actuated them in the course adopted, should be stated now. We believe that the affairs of McGill are at a dangerous crisis. Never before had she to compete with such formidable rivals as to-day. Yet this session has seen an attempt made to divide the resources of the University. Then the Faculty of Arts has been guilty of an unheard of stretch of arbitrariness. The Faculty of Law has shown no sign either of improvement or promise of improvement. In the Science Faculty there has been a well-grounded complaint of lack of practicality, of too much unnecessary mathematics in its teaching. Even in Medicine, which is the strongest and most progressive of the four Faculties, there has been some carelessness in the department of practical anatomy. Happily this last defect was at once remedied, when attention was called to it in these columns, and this has been the one golden reward bestowed upon the editors in the performance of an unpleasant duty. A body of men,

ever willing to meet criticism half way, is so rare in the world that we cannot but feel proud that the University has such men in her service. Would that she had more of them! For three years THE GAZETTE has been calling for more effectual teaching in the Faculty of Law. For three years it has been asking for a dining hall. For three years it has been demanding that the Arts Faculty should raise its standard, in order to keep pace with the advance of rival institutions, and of its feeders, the High Schools. These reforms could all be effected without further expenditure of money, yet no response has been made to our appeals. What wonder, then, if this year we adopted a sterner tone; if we attempted, by harsh criticism, to sting the authorities into action; if we denounced their indefensible attempt to establish a new faculty—we say indefensible attempt, because the leader in it, with all his controversial skill could make no other defence than one ridiculous in the eyes of all who have any pretence to logical understanding. Whether our criticism will avail anything remains to be seen. That it has been felt by the authorities we know, since one of them has made anxious attempts to put a stop to it. We do not expect much, however, nor have we much hope for the future, unless a radical change be made in the constitution of the governing bodies. It is too much to ask that men who have never had any real connection with the University, who have little interest in, or knowledge of, educational problems, who have advanced to that stage of life when the affairs of the world are regarded with calm indifference, it is too much to demand that such men should take that vital interest in the University which alone can raise it to eminence through all the obstacles that now environ it. The only reform that can be of lasting benefit to McGill, is one that will substitute her foster children for the cold representatives of the city's wealth, who now perfunctorily rule over her. Unfortunately, a long course of neglect has chilled the warm affection which our graduates should feel for their Alma Mater, and they go on their way with a despair of being able to do aught in her service, which too often ends in utter callousness. If they only would consider how great is their number, and how powerful their combined influence and ability, they might join together in an effort which would raise them to their proper place, as regards McGill, and rescue her from the half-

hearted struggle to keep abreast of the times, in which the greater number of her faculties are now unsuccessfully engaged. We trust that this awakening may come, and that our successors will aid it more powerfully and wisely than we.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

Up to the present the chief aim of our educators has been to train the mind, but the time is not far distant when pupils will be trained to use their hands as well. A step was taken in this direction a few years ago, when teaching of drawing was made compulsory in the public schools. The direct results of such teaching may not be so apparent as those of ordinary school work, but time will reveal them. To learn to be accurate is no small part of primary education. It is, however, to be regretted that, notwithstanding the law, drawing has not been introduced in many of the country schools, and in others, where it has gained a footing, it is so badly taught as to be almost valueless. There is cause, however, for thankfulness, considering the slowness with which the Province of Quebec advances in elementary education. We hope that the work thus begun will be followed up by an effort to promote industrial education—an education that will better fit the poorer, but most important part, of our population for their future work in the world. It is by no means a new, untried scheme, but one that has been successfully carried on for years in Switzerland, Germany and France, and is being fast introduced in Great Britain and the United States. The arguments in favor of technical education have been so well given by more competent writers that we must rest content with glancing briefly at a few, which seem to bear on ourselves and the material advancement of the Province in which we live. With the early immigrants to this Province came artisans—men who had served an apprenticeship of seven years at their respective trades. These skilled workmen found, on their arrival, that their surroundings, the requirements and nature of the material at their disposal were different from those which they had left and to which they had been accustomed. They, therefore, were obliged to adapt themselves as well as they could to their altered circumstances, but were not long in discovering that much of the training previously acquired by them would be worthless. Many of these Britons were either too old or felt too proud to learn of the French settlers, and accordingly made numberless mistakes. Hence these old pioneer craftsmen were only partially successful. This class has now, for the most part, passed away, and their places have been filled by

Canadians who boast that they have "picked up" their trade in a hap-hazard manner without being under the necessity of serving a long apprenticeship, as their fathers did. Among this class are many unworthy of the name of artisans, who are vain enough to believe that a few weeks spent in a shop are sufficient to acquire a mechanical art. These are the botches so common in this Province, whom farmers and merchants employ because they work for low wages. Judging from the manner in which the work is done they are expensive. Let us illustrate by referring to the common trade of masonry. The skillful mason in preparing the mortar to be used summons to his aid the knowledge gained through long experience in dealing with this material, and careful observation as to the effect that the several ingredients exert. It is finally made satisfactorily and used to cement the stones of the wall. To the uninitiated, or careless employer, the botch does equally well. As far as outward appearances are concerned his work compares favorably with that of the more efficient laborer; but the two will not last equally well. The well prepared mortar becomes harder and stronger with age; the badly prepared mixture will soon crumble like a piece of sun-dried clay. We do not advocate the necessity of adopting the old custom of years of apprenticeship, by which the learner often paid too high, in valuable time lost, for the instruction which was so slowly and fitfully meted out to him. Such a custom is not well suited to the wants of a new country like ours. We cannot, however, hope to have skilled mechanics unless means are provided to prepare them for these useful occupations. At present there are many difficulties in the way of the boy or young man who is desirous of learning a trade. If his home is in the country, the village blacksmith, carpenter, mason, machinist, etc., open to him the sole channels through which the necessary knowledge can come, and he will be fortunate if he secures employment with a really good tradesman, and still more so if this tradesman possesses the faculty of imparting what he knows to his apprentice. Such men do things—often well—but they cannot tell another person how to perform the same. They may be good workmen, but are bad teachers. For the most part, men possessing a limited amount of book learning, they are prone to ignore the benefits that have been bestowed on their calling and order through the researches of men who have devoted years of patient and ceaseless labour to testing and experimenting upon the materials which the mechanic uses in construction, and too often blindly follow that capricious guide—the rule of thumb. More than this, sheer practice covers but a small part of their trade,

and the would-be-mechanic finds himself at the close of his apprenticeship but poorly prepared for his work. In the city, although the men are better qualified, the difficulties to be contended with are equally great. Here the beginning is so low, the wages so paltry and the chance of rising so uncertain as might well discourage a brave heart. In our opinion, the young men referred to might obtain a part of the necessary training, in shorter time, more thoroughly, and at less cost, in a school established for the purpose. By it not only would the taste and talent of the mechanic be cultured, but he would be in a position to gain a more thorough knowledge of the properties of the materials with which he has to deal. It was not, however, the followers of the old trades that we had so much in view when attempting to write in their interests. Of late years the inventions and discoveries in science, by which the forces existing in nature have been made subservient to man, have introduced many new trades. The present has been aptly styled by Prof. Woodward the dynamic age. The power of steam has to a large extent supplied the place of muscular effort, the function of the hands being rather to direct than to perform. Steam, electrical and hydraulic machines have lately multiplied enormously and are daily making increasing demands for skilled operators. Is it not a matter of deep regret that these operators should be almost wholly ignorant of the principles on which machines are constructed and of the laws governing the forces that impel them? We do not sanction the advisability of producing intelligent but useless theorists. If the training is to be partial, one sided, far better to have the practical part, but the best results can only be obtained when both are combined. The Government of this Province has for years recognized the importance of obtaining more skillful farmers by annually granting a considerable sum to support in part several agricultural schools, of which the one at Richmond is fast coming into prominence as an institution well calculated to prepare young men to farm intelligently and successfully. In view, however, of the financial condition of this Province, it would be vain to expect much aid from that source. As far as the metropolis of Canada is concerned, the means for carrying on practical education within its limits must come from its wealthy and liberal citizens. To their liberality is mainly due the success which McGill University has achieved, and, although interested parties, we can truthfully affirm that we know of no place where the training could be so effectively conducted as in a well-equipped department in connection with the Faculty of Applied Science—a faculty that has accomplished wonders in the twelve years of its ex-

istence, when we consider the small amount of means at its disposal. Railroad men, we look to you for assistance. Will you not supply us with a workshop to form the nucleus of the great industrial school which will, in the near future, form an important factor in McGill University? Part of the money so invested will, in time, come back to you through work better done by the large number of employees, from the civil engineers and master mechanics, whose ability frequently saves large sums of money to the companies employing them, down to the lowest grade of mechanics who are required for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of railways. We earnestly invite you to imitate the example of the wealthy citizens of Melbourne, Australia, who have lately founded a working-man's college, in which free education, suited to the wants of men preparing for or engaged in the mechanic arts, is given to day and evening classes. This is what we need in Montreal, not merely for the benefit of its citizens, but likewise for the sixty or seventy students in training for civil, mining and mechanical engineers in the Science Faculty, the best engineering school in the Dominion. Let not outsiders imagine that the engineering students dislike to labor. With them close application to work, both during their college career and previous, has been the rule, not the exception. Like those of other professions, they aim at reaching the first places, and wish to make everything subordinate to this one definite project. A necessary qualification to them as well as to tradesmen is a knowledge of the nature of the materials used in construction, a knowledge that comes of handling, testing, experimenting upon and constructing, rather than that obtained from lectures or books. At present the Science Faculty is somewhat like what the Medical would be were its undergraduates deprived of the use of the dissecting room or forbidden to witness operations performed in the hospitals. The engineers should not only design machines, wholly or in part, but be provided with workshops where they would have an opportunity of making, as the Cambridge engineering students now do, the machine themselves. Have we no Vanderbilts who will do as much for practical education as Redpath has done for natural science?

PERHAPS it is safe to say that one-half of the translations made in the classics are *Bahna fide*.

PROFESSOR in Astronomy.—“What constellation did you study last night?” Senior.—“Virgo.”

A young fellow picked up a flower after the ladies had left the room and pathetically remarked: “‘Tis the last rose of some her.”

PROF. in Moral Philosophy: “Mr. R., what end has a mother in view when she punishes her child?” Mr. R. blushes and sits down.

HIPPOLYTUS.

(Translated from Euripides.)

Hail! Dian, fairest of Olympian maids!
 To thee this coronal of flowers I bring.
 Placed, my sweet Mistress, from thine unshorn mead,
 Where never shepherd dares to feed his flocks,
 Nor say the lark passed; but o'er the cornal kna
 The wild bee ranges, and the worshippers
 With river-waters tend its pleasant growth.
 These flowers, my Queen, the wicked may not cull,
 But they alone, whose innocent soul is chaste,
 By nature prompted, not by training taught.
 Then, dearest Mistress, for thy golden hair
 Receive this chaplet from a zealous hand;
 I—only I, of mortals am allowed
 With thee to live, and interchange sweet words,
 To hear thy voice, although I see thee not.
 Oh! may it be my blissful lot to end
 My life's career as now it hath begun!

GEO. MURRAY.

Contributions.

TOBIAS GEORGE SMOLLETT, M.D., NOVELIST,
 POET AND DRAMATIST.*

(Continued.)

In "Roderick Random," which was published in 1748, the author attempts "to represent modest merit struggling with every difficulty to which a friendless orphan is exposed, from his own want of experience, as well as from the selfishness, envy, malice, and base indifference of mankind." All the characters are well drawn, and the story as a whole is inferior only to "Humphrey Clinker." Many of the characters are supposed to have been drawn from real life. The seaman Lieut. Bowling is perhaps the one which has been most admired. This novel was supposed, at the time of its appearance, to contain the real history of the author's life, and although this has been denied, I must say that it gives one the feeling of its being a disguised autobiography. Roderick Random indulges in boyish pranks, so did Smollett; Roderick was born of a respectable family in Scotland, so was Smollett; Roderick was bred a surgeon and served as a surgeon's mate on board a man-of-war, so did Smollett. Crab and Potion, the two apothecaries are discovered to have been intended for two respectable surgeons in Glasgow. Squire Tawky was a character well-known in that part of the kingdom where the scene is laid, and so on. Smollett conceived himself to have been very badly treated by Lacy and Garrick, and he attacked them with the greatest bitterness in this book under the names of Brayer and Marmoset. On the other hand there were many inconsistencies, which only show, however, that the biography was indistinct, not that there was no biography at all.

"Peregrine Pickle" was published in 1751. These "adventures," in the words of Dr. Anderson, "relate, in easy appropriate language, a succession of events, forming a natural and well-drawn picture of human life, which the thoughtless and the impudent may peruse with advantage, and the profligate and the vicious with instruction and improvement. From the wild unlucky boy, teasing his aunt and Commodore Trun-

nion by mischievous pranks, and heading a rebellion at school against his master, we trace the headstrong youth, of unbroken pride and unbridled appetite, plunging into folly, vice and dissipation; wasting his substance, injuring the woman of all others he loved, and at last pining in prison. In this forlorn situation, detesting the world, abhorring himself, and loving Emilia to distraction, he protests to her brother, "that he had broke off all connections with mankind, and that he impatiently longed for the hour of his dissolution, which, if it should not arrive by the course of nature, he was resolved to hasten it with his own hands, rather than be exposed to the contempt, and more intolerable pity, of a rascally world." He remains for some time obstinately bent on this frantic determination, notwithstanding the zealous efforts of expostulating friendship; and but for the unexpected payment of a large debt which had been given up as lost, would probably have sacrificed himself to that sullen, irrational independence, which leads the infatuated spendthrift into habits of misery and ruin; and without imparting to him sufficient strength of mind to resist temptation, or struggle with calamity,—commences in folly and concludes with self-destruction. Roused by the voice of friendship, and again restored to affluence, he returns with a stern reluctance, founded on a sense of his own unworthiness and vicious impudence, to society and love; convinced that after all the bustle of pleasure, and the glitter of wealth, real happiness is only to be found in moderate enjoyment, domestic tranquility and social virtue."

This story is spoiled, as most people admit, by the introduction of a long and minute narrative of the intrigues of Lady Vane. This is so from an artistic point of view, not to speak of the moral aspect. It is on the whole, one of the most obscene of all his novels.

The sea-characters, Truncheon, Pipes and Hatchway are amusing and very extravagant, but by no means to be compared with Lieut. Bowling. They are too extravagant to be anything but humorous. Emilia is perhaps the best of all his female characters. A selection from this novel which is generally given, is the account of how Admiral Truncheon went to get married in Chap. VIII. Not less amusing is the account of the storm which Peregrine and his governor encountered on their way to Calais. Chap. XXXV.

Then of course you have all heard of the entertainment after the manner of the ancients. Chap. 44.

"Ferdinand Count Fathom," which is shorter than either "Roderick Random" or "Peregrine Pickle," was published three years after the latter. It has a more complex plot than the others, and in fact is rather too sensational towards the end. For the description of an utter villain, repulsive even to loathsomeness for his ingratitude, cruelty, licentiousness and diabolical deceit, I commend you to the character of Ferdinand Count Fathom. It is confessedly the unfolding of the character of a villain, written for the purpose of evoking disgust for a vicious life. As a contrast we have, of course, the story of the generous nobleman whom Ferdinand so cruelly wronged. The story, I am afraid, does not conform to one of the conditions laid down by Mr. Ruskin as necessary to fair

* A paper read before the Morris College Debating Society, Quebec, 26th November, 1884, and before the Christ Church Cathedral Young Men's Society, Montreal, 6th January, 1885.

fiction. He compares fiction to a Greek vase, and amongst other things says that it must be "lipped softly"—full of kindness and comfort: the Keats line indeed the perpetual message of it—"For ever shalt thou love and she be fair." All beautiful fiction is of the Madonna, whether the virgin of Athens or of Judah—Pan-Ath-naic always. And all foul fiction is *leze majesté* of the Madonna and to womanhood. For indeed the great fiction of every human life is the shaping of the Love, with due prominence, due imagination, due persistence and perfection from the beginning of its story to the end; for every human soul its Palladium. And it follows that all right imaginative work is beautiful, which is a practical and brief law concerning it. All frightful things are either foolish, or sick, visits of frenzy, or pollutions of plague."

In this story the famous robber scene in the old woman's hut, has always been much admired.

"Sir Launcelot Treaves" is a story modelled on the plan of Don Quixote. It is the shortest of Smollett's novels, and is universally admitted to be by far his weakest production in this way. Of the plan of the story itself we may say what Ferret said when the knight explained the reason of his being fantastically attired in armour. "I am a novice, a novice," says Sir Launcelot "of that military order, which hath of old been distinguished in Great Britain, as well as through all Christendom, by the name of Knights-errant. Yes, gentlemen, in that painful and thorny path of toil and danger I have begun my career, a candidate for honest fame; determined as far as in me lies, to honor and assert the efforts of virtue; to combat vice in all her forms, redress injuries, chastise oppression, protect the helpless and forlorn, relieve the indigent, exert my best endeavors in the cause of innocence and beauty, and dedicate my talents, such as they are, to the service of my country." "What!" said Ferret, "do you set up for a modern Don Quixote? The scheme is rather too stale and extravagant. What was an humorous romance, and well-timed satire in Spain, near two hundred years ago, will make but a sorry jest, and appear equally insipid and absurd when really acted from affection, at this time of day, in a country like England." We think, with Ferret, that the scheme was too stale and extravagant, and furthermore utterly unworthy of such an original writer as Smollett. It is needless to say that the execution of the work is excellent, and the incidents throughout thoroughly humorous. The great work of Cervantes was fully justified in its extravagance by the aim which the writer had in view. Smollett, however, can claim no similar purpose in his justification. One of the most amusing characters in the story is the lawyer Tom Clarke who is continually putting in his law jargon, and spinning out technical dissertations to the no small annoyance of his uncle Crowe.

The story contains many amusing speeches, as for instance, that of Ferret when trying to sell his Elixir of Life which he called the "*Ch. uscon p. uromenon ek puros*." It also, in places, is written in the finest style and has many passages full of pathos, as for example, the Knight's Soliloquy in the Mad-house. It contains less obscurity than some of the other stories.

The Rev. George Gillfillan gave it as his opinion

that "Humphrey Clinker was the most delightful novel, with the exception of the Waverley series, in the English language. "The novel of Humphrey Clinker," says Thackeray, "is, I do think, the most laughable story that was ever been written since the goodly art of novels writing began. Winifred Jenkins and Tabitha Bramble must keep Englishmen on the grin for ages to come; and in their letters and the story of their lovers, there is a perpetual fount of sparkling laughter, as inexhaustible as Bladud's well." It certainly is the best of all Smollett's novels, and deserves to go down to all posterity. It is written in the epistolary form and was published in 1771. The book is full of humour from the first letter to the last the prose is elegant, and his observations on human affairs agreeably abundant. Moreover, the writer has been exceedingly attentive to the proprieties of place and character, by which I mean that there is no jumbling, no merging of the styles of the different writers into one. His descriptions of places seem to be accurate, and are certainly anything but tiresome. So well are the distinctive points of view of the writers of the different letters preserved that after a description of some incident has been given in one letter we feel a strong curiosity to know how the same incident has appeared to the other correspondents. Why the story should have been called "Humphrey Clinker" we do not understand as this individual appears but seldom upon the scene. To be sure when he does appear he appears in a most ludicrous light, an odd mixture of genius, levity and piety. Probably his happy sounding name procured for him the honour of being made the hero of the story.

Novels in the epistolary form are not, as a rule, successful as narratives, they are rather adapted to depicting character from within. In "Humphrey Clinker", however, all the peculiar advantages of the style is preserved while the faults are mostly absent. The story is comparatively free from indecency. The letters of Win Jenkins with their absurd spelling are said to be the first instance of that kind of humorous writing. Sheridan afterwards employed a similar device in his Mrs. Malaprop.

"The Adventures of an Atom" is a political allegory. It may have been interesting an hundred years ago, when the political characters traduced were alive; it certainly is not interesting to-day. Indeed I should not care to ask my worst enemy to wade through the book. It is an attempt at an imitation of the kind of writing in which Dean Swift excelled, but without being amusing it seems lathesomely scurrilous. Even Lord Mansfield did not escape his rough handling. A writer whom I happened to come across says that "it is a romance in which the writer has blended the reckless jollity of Rabelais with the withering sarcasm of Swift. With much wit and humour the production displays great physical indelicacy, a latent ferocity of sentiment, and an unqualified abhorrence of the lower order of the community, which is far from edifying." In the first place the production is hardly worthy to be called a romance, for romances are generally supposed to be entertaining. Then the jollity and sarcasm in its finest sense, I did not come across to any extent; per-

haps I fell asleep at the most lively parts. Again, physical indelicacy is but a mild way of expressing the putrid dirt in which the story is conceived. I do not advise any to read "The Adventure of an Atom."

This brings the list of his novels to a close, and I have only, before passing on, to repeat, in the words of the prologue which I placed at the beginning of my essay, the opinion which I have already expressed.

"No plea can then avert the dreadful sentence, He must be damned in spite of all repentance." But it will not be because "The wit profess'd turned out a dunce in grain."

Before saying a few words of Smollett as a poet and dramatist I should allude to one very serious and direct evil effect which his novels produced. This point is noticed by John Moore, M.D. in his "View of the Commencement and Progress of Romance." Dr. Moore in this connection handles the question of novel reading in general in such a rational manner that I am tempted to quote from him at length, believing that his arguments will not be without interest and relevance even now. "The success of Richardson Fielding and Smollett, in this species of writing," says the learned writer "produced, what great success generally does produce, a prodigious number of imitators: but by far the greatest part of them, like Hamlet's players, imitated abominably; and instead of representing the manners of the age, exhibited men and women, neither having the manners of Christians nor Pagans, and who seemed to have been made by the least expert of nature's journeymen. There were for a considerable time, so many novels written of this description, and with so few exceptions, that the very best romance or novel conveyed the idea of a frivolous or pernicious book. Even this, however, did not diminish the number, though it made many people at pains to declare, that for their part they never read novels; a declaration sometimes made by persons of both sexes, who never read anything else. This is being by much too cautious. They might with equal prudence declare that they never would read any book because many books are silly or pernicious. The truth is, that the best romances always have been, and always will be read with delight by men of genius; and with the more delight, the more taste and genius the reader happens to have. Nothing can be so interesting to men as man. The modern romances are, or ought to be, a representation of life and manners in the country where the scene is placed. Had works of this nature existed in the flourishing ages of the Greek and Roman republics, and had some of the best of them been preserved, how infinitely would they be relished at present! as they would give a much more minute and satisfactory picture of private and domestic life than is found in history, which dwells chiefly on wars and affairs of state. This species of writing may also be made most subservient to the purposes of instruction; but even those which afford amusement only provided they contain nothing immoral, are not without utility, and deserve by no means to be spoken of with that contempt which they sometimes are by their most intimate acquaintance. These gentlemen ought to recollect in what manner they usually employ that portion of their time which

they do not pass in reading what they so much affect to despise; they ought to recollect how many languid intervals there are in their journey through life; how often they fill them up in a more pernicious way; and if a novel or romance should now and then help them to jog along with more innocence and less yawning, they ought to be a little more grateful. It may be said that such people had much better study books of science, or read moral essays or sermons. Unquestionably they had; but, unfortunately, they will not; although some authors have shown that it is possible to write sermons so that they shall be as much or more read than the best romance. Yet this talent is extremely rare; and it is often lamented that sermons and moral essays, containing much good instruction, are less universally perused than many novels, more elegantly written. What does this prove, but that there is something so peculiarly attractive in this species of writing, that performances, which would have been neglected in any other form, find readers in this? Some very respectable authors have even insinuated that romances are more entertaining than history itself, and that they thereby breed a dislike to that useful study. I fear this is not a likely argument to prevail on mankind to quit romances for history; and therefore, even if I were of that opinion, which is not the case, I should not publish it.

But it is universally known that books of pure science and instruction, which require much thought, are not studied spontaneously by any but those who have already a considerable degree of steadiness of mind and desire of knowledge. Persons of dissipated minds, incapable of attention, who stand most in need of instruction, are the least willing to receive it; they throw such books down the moment they perceive their drift. But a romance in the highest degree entertaining may be written with as moral an intention and contain as many excellent rules for the conduct of life as any book with a more solemn and scientific title. This, however, not being suspected by the persons above alluded to, they continue to read in the confidence of meeting with amusement only, and fearless of any plot or plan for their instruction or improvement; they find folly ridiculed in a pleasant manner, vice placed in a degrading light, and a variety of instructive lessons so interwoven with an interesting story, that they cannot satisfy their curiosity until they have received impressions of a useful or virtuous nature, and thus acquire something infinitely more valuable than what they were in pursuit of."

Smollett, as a poet, must be given a place not much inferior to that which he occupies as a novelist. The poems of any considerable length which he has written are not many, but the few that he has written are very pleasing. "The few poems which he has left," says Thomas Campbell, "have a portion of delicacy which is not to be found in his novels; but they have not, like those prose fictions, the strength of a master's hand. Were he to live over again, we might wish him to write more poetry, in the belief that his poetic talent would improve by exercise; but we should be glad to have more of his novels, just as they are." This was written towards the beginning of this century; we, writing towards its close, might wish him not only

to write more and better poetry, but also to give us new editions of his old stories, while reserving to himself the power to add to their number.

The list of his poems comprises an "Ode to Independence," "Advice and Reproof; a satire," "Verses on a young Lady playing on a Harpsichord and Singing," "A Love Elegy," "Tears of Scotland," "Ode to Leven Water," and others.

His "Ode to Independence," his best production in this way commences thus:—

"Thy spirit, Independence let me share,
Lord of the lion-heart and eagle eye,
Thy steps I follow with my bosom bare,
Nor heed the storm that howls along the sky,
Deep in the frozen regions of the North,
A goddess violated brought thee forth,
Immortal liberty, whose look sublime
Hath bleas'd the tyrant's cheek in ev'ry varying clime."

There is throughout the poem an admirable simplicity of expression, an abundance of bold and appropriate imagery, and a harmonious versification.

In his "Ode to Leven Water," he gives a picturesque description of his native place:—

"On Leven's banks while free to rove,
And tune the rural pipe to lore,
I envied not the happiest swain
That ever trod the Arcadian plain.
Pure streams 't in whose transparent wave
My youthful limbs I wou'd to lave;
No torrents stain thy limpid source;
No rocks impede thy dimpling course,
That sweetly warbles o'er its bed
With white, round, polish'd pebbles spread;
While, lightly pois'd, the scaly brood
In myriads cleave thy crystal flood;
The springing trout in speckled pride;
The salmon, monarch of the tide;
The ruthless pike, intent on war;
The silver eel, and mottled par,
Devoting from the parent lake,
A charming maze thy waters make.
By bow's of birch, and groves of pine,
And hebes flower'd with edentane,
Still on thy banks so gayly green,
May num'rous herds and flocks be seen,
And lasses chanting o'er thy mill,
And shepherds piping in the dale,
And ancient faith that knows no guile,
And industry embrown'd with toil,
And hearts resolved and hands prepar'd,
The blessings they enjoy to guard."

Smollett was, I think, uncommonly happy in his love verses, several of which are scattered through his novels. Take, for instance, the verses which Roderick Random addressed to his dear Narcissa:—

I.

"Thy fatal shafts unerring move,
I bow before thine altar, Love!
I feel thy soft resistless flame
Glide swiftly through all my vital frame!"

II.

"For while I gaze, my bosom glows,
My blood in tides tempestuous flows;
Hope, Fear, and Joy, alternate roll,
And floods of transports 'whelm my soul!"

III.

"My fall's sine tongue attempts in vain,
In soothing murmurs to complain;
My tongue some secret magic ties,
My murmurs sink in broken sighs!"

IV.

"Condemned to nurse eternal care,
And ever from the silent tear,
Unheard I mourn, unknown I sigh,
Unfriended live, unpitied die!"

Very little need be said of Smollett as a dramatist, for in this sphere he was altogether a failure. The tragedy of "The Regicide," which he wrote at the early age of eighteen, possesses great merit as a poetical composition but is entirely unfit for representation. It is declamatory and the speeches in the dialogues altogether too long. The rhythm of the lines is smooth so that with its other good qualities it will be pronounced a pleasing piece by most readers.

The "Reprisal" is a comedy in which an Irishman, a Scotchman and a Frenchman are made to display their respective national peculiarities. It is very stupid, in my opinion, and the Irishman's language is absurd. The mistakes which he makes in his language are entirely overdone, and the whole character a piece of extravagance.

His only other dramatic composition was "Alceste," an opera, written at the suggestion of Rich, of Covent Garden. In consequence of some dispute with that patentee, the piece was withdrawn and never appeared in print.

I am afraid I have drawn out this paper so too great a length, and yet I have but imperfectly touched upon a few of the qualities of this great writer. For it must be remembered that Smollett was not only a novelist, poet and dramatist, but also a politician, a physician, a historian, a translator, a writer of travels, a writer on medical subjects, and a miscellaneous author. But it cannot after all be considered a waste of time to examine even in this imperfect way the achievement of one of the greatest and most versatile of the many great men who Scotland has produced.

J. R. MURRAY.

JOTTINGS FROM THE NEW WORLD.

BY A LADY UNDERGRADUATE.

Without novelty, and particularly startling novelty, life would be to most of us a barren desert. Who—especially our friends the Medicals, whose nerves and general organization, must, from all accounts be of the very finest and most sensitive order—does not experience a feeling almost akin to regret when the evening papers arrive without the semblance of a murder, or at the very least on attempt at suicide in their pages! But lately murders, suicides, and even liquid hints at the doings of Carnival week have sunk into shadow and comparative oblivion besides the all-absorbing topics of "the higher education of Women." How imposing it does sound! To some, it is associated with a feel of awe, and vague notion of reform costume, short hair, sharp voices, and general air of strong-mindedness, but these people are misguided, as I am sure all who have seen us will allow. But alas! novelty, even of the higher education type went last for ever, and we at length find that there are people who actually read the newspapers, without even glancing at the columns about the grand topic, and who may be seen devouring greedily—tremble of learning!—the society-notes, reports of concerts, and even the much-abused Carnival paragraphs. And to think that we, the lady students, have never given our side of the story, and actually have not left upon the pages of the world's history one solitary note of the impressions

made by the outside world of McGill upon us, in our newly-discovered country. I wonder if the subject is too old to warrant my bringing it into prominence. Perhaps not. I shall try it at all events.

To begin with, then, we are not at all impressionable in most respects—at least our first-class, full-course students are not, who, with the light of knowledge burning on their brows gaze tranquilly on the seeming monstrosities of Xenophon, and fear not the withering scorn of Cicero. They are not overwaded and reduced to intellectual pulp at sight of those whose degree of B. A. is a thing of the near future; for will they not also, in their turn, have conferred on them the degree of—what? nor do they mind curious glances with which they are often met. En passant, have the McGill students settled conclusively whether we are relics of the prehistoric races promising specimens of the *Chine Panzee-tribe*, or beings celestial? And will those, whose risible faculties seem so hard to control when they meet us, remember that we dont indulge in levity at McGill? The mustiness and general appearance of decay about the dead languages reduce us to a neutral slate-gray and bring the shady side of life before us. But these are new impressions. Our impressions, on the other hand, changed rapidly a few weeks ago, we might have addressed to our fellow student a heart stirring and piteous lamentation headed, in characters of fire, *Morituri Salutamus*. But now the examinations are over, we have died the death, and have arrived at a paradise of little to do and abundance of time in which to do it. Don't begin now, to settle yourselves in easy-chairs and groan at the prospect of a long discourse on examinations. I have pity I know the propensity of suffering students to dwell upon the horror of examination time, cutting the faces of the professors in stone, and giving them all the qualities of grim death or bringing out in strong relief the different degrees of stoical indifference visible in their countenances. The subject is to students very much what the French Revolution is to France, without which French history might be crowded into a very few pages. The experience of examinations is certainly terrible, and I own that life did seem a vast wilderness and my intellect a chaos, when I read the questions for the first one, but I still maintain, and shall continue to do so, that the professors had a slight resemblance to other men, and did not seem utterly indifferent to our sufferings. But I find myself being drawn into the very path I wished to avoid. And now, I should like to express our sincere gratitude for the kindly welcome we received from the gentlemen undergraduates they have shown kindly feeling on every possible occasion. In the Gazette we have been wished every manner of success in our studies, and all kinds of nice little speeches have been made about us. Especially have we been gratified by your showing us so plainly that we belong to your number by your cordial and overpowering invitation to join in the thick of the scrimmage in your football-matches. Which invitation, out of consideration to the other side, we thought best to refuse. Also we were charmed being informed in so emphatic a style that we were jolly good fellows, it shows a generosity of mind scarcely equalled before or since, still, we rather do object to being told in so elder-brotherly a

style to "Hop a-long, sister Mary" "hop a-long," especially as we have been carefully practising and going through all manner of agonies to perfect, a classic and stately glide. Indeed some of our most strong-minded ladies have wept bitter tears over this insult. Please understand, once for all, we dont hop! When we happen once in a while to take our places at the head of the year, we dont hop there,—too much extention!—we merely glide by slow, easy stages. Another impression is that the way in which Freshmen are treated is the most crying evil of the day. As one of the "noble army of martyrs" I object to be told I have an insufficiency of intellect, and own I feel rebellious when dark stories of wasps boring first of all into the solid rock of a Freshman's "cheek" and then, with broken drill, penetrating without difficulty the youth's spongy cranium, appear in select paragraphs of promising papers. Where is it all to end? Is it one day to be the rule that on one who has not finished an elaborate course in a lunatic-asylum can compete for the Freshmanship? Really, it would seem so, for some of the jokes against this promising body even now can hardly be applied to people possessing mental faculties at all. But it must be allowed that the Freshmen supply wonderful and rich material for the wit of their seniors. What would valedictorians do without them? I shudder to think of it! Their valedictories would lack spirit, the learned men on the platform would yawn, and things would be in deplorable condition. Suffer on, noble company of Freshmen, as by your sufferings you save others from everlasting disgrace! After all the sorrows of Freshdom, do you wonder that the noble youths who composed the circle of college society, appear in tall hats, make nine-tenths of their composition starch, and affect an amount of knowledge which would have astonished Solomon. Perhaps they really have it. Sorrow makes a man wise.

One last, great impression is this: gentlemen take quite twice as long to settle quarrels as ladies. Over and over again after reading the Gazette the question has recurred to my mind, "If two men take almost a month to settle a matter, how long will twelve take?" Dont let it be a century. Say all the bitter things you have to say now, and then fill up the space formerly occupied by these words with poetry, essays, or even sensational stories! I think they would be almost preferable.

NOTE.—The editor was a good deal broken up when he had read these caustic notes, but was reduced to an indescribable state of impotence after he had copied out the alternate pages. Lady contributors will in future confer a favor upon that burdened individual if they will send in their copy in a fit state for the printer to handle, i. e., with the taper written on one side only.

MEDICAL TEACHING IN LONDON AND VIENNA.

As far as the undergraduate is concerned the course in Montreal is much the same as that in London with the exception in favor of the latter city of not demanding such a regular attendance on lectures, giving the student more time for hospital work. As there is a great abundance of material in London, there is room for having more specialists attached to each hospital than here. The clinic are held for both Surgery and

Medicine, etc., at the same hour, in the afternoon, thus preventing attendance in more than one. In Vienna the Undergraduate can suit himself as there are two public clinics on each subject at different hours thus enabling time to lay out his time to the best advantage. The material is also more classified so that we can better see a disease in all its phases and varieties. As few of the readers of the MCGILL GAZETTE will seek either of these cities as undergraduates, I will compare them with respect to the opportunities which they present for the graduate seeking to acquire an extensive knowledge of the Science and Art of Medicine generally and specially.

In London the graduate has to gain information in exactly the same manner as an undergraduate, stand for hours in the wards of the hospital listening to clinics in a crowd of other students scarcely getting a view of the patient and often not catching more than a sentence here and there from the teacher. At the special hospitals they lead you to believe that, you will be regularly taught the speciality if you pay a fee of from 3 to 6 guineas. After payment of the money you are soon made aware of the fact, that there is no attempt made to enlighten you. The only exceptions which I found were The Womens Hospital at Soho Square and the Eye-Hospital at Moorfields but even in them teaching is only in its infancy as compared to Vienna.

In Vienna there are two Professors for each subject and there are two public clinics at different hours for each subject also. The fees for these public clinics are very small, about \$4.00; besides as each Professor is provided with several assistants who are allowed the use of his material and to form private classes, there are innumerable private clinics, the fees for which are \$8.00 for six weeks. The attendance is limited in accordance with the requirements of the subject, 4 for gynecology, 8 to 10 for consultation etc.

We can begin hospital work at 8.30 a.m. and take clinics from different men all day on the same branch. The larger General Hospital contains nearly 4000 beds and the Polyclinic adjacent admits an enormous number of out patients daily. Living in Vienna is as cheap as here, and without knowing the language we can learn more there in three months than in a year or more in London. My advice to graduates going abroad to study is to go direct to Vienna, if they must have an English or Scotch degree go to Elinburg and get it at once and then go to Vienna. When they have given as much time as possible to Vienna then see London and its Hospitals and Teachers.—W. STEPHEN M.D.

The poet wrote a sonnet,
To the Dimple on her Chin,
And sent it to a paper,
With request they'd "put it in."
Next morning he was frantic,
And he swore it was a sin
When he found his sonnet headed,
"To the Pimple on her Chin."

A young lady admitted to her mother that her beau had kissed her on the cheek. "And what did you do?" asked the old lady, in a tone of indignation. "Mother," said the young lady, "I cannot tell a lie; I turned the other cheek."

McGill News.

The annual dinner of the students in Applied Science will take place most probably at the Windsor, about Feb. 15th.

The collection of Shakespearian books from the late T. D. King's library has been received at the Molson Hall, where, as soon as they have been catalogued they may be consulted.

The Art Sophomores have invited to other years to join them in a petition to the corporation for a dining hall. We admire their pluck, but expect their memorial will share the fate of one prepared some five years ago, *i.e.*, be suppressed before it has reached, or been heard of, by the body to whom it is addressed.

ANNUAL DINNER OF MCGILL'S ARTSMEN.

A more thoroughly enthusiastic and enjoyable banquet was perhaps never held by any assemblage of McGill's undergraduates than that which took place at the Richelieu Hotel on the evening of the 21st of January when the devotees of the sage goddess Minerva celebrated their annual feast. Anyone could then have seen displayed, what should be jealously fostered among the students of every college and faculty, that generous *esprit de corps* which recognizes neither the restraints of rivalry, nor the sentiments of academic superiority, from which our *Alma Mater* is so happily free. The good will, however, which was there exhibited, was not assumed for the occasion, but was such as is wont to exist continually among the students of McGill. The dinner, which was certainly the largest and most successful ever held by the Artsmen, may in every sense be regarded as representative in that every class in the faculty contributed to the evening's entertainment from their members the most prominent men, and those who esteem college life as a social as well as an intellectual training, and who are susceptible to that fraternizing influence engendered by a community of interests and pursuits. The dinner was gotten up on temperance principles and in first class style, reflecting great credit both on the committee of management and the host. After assiduous attention had been paid to the elaborate *menu*, and its attractions were heartily appreciated, the guests for a few moments indulged in a promenade, after which the oratorical part of the programme was introduced by the chairman Mr. Wm. Lochead, who proposed the time honored toast of "The Queen," to which as a response the national anthem was sung in a right royal manner. When these loyal strains had ceased, Mr. Hilton Pedley proposed the toast of "Alma Mater," in terms evincing the strong attachment every where expressed for "Old McGill" by her hundreds of students as well as by her graduates, who, though now scattered over the whole world, still cherish for their university an undying affection. To this Mr. Calder responded in a few and well-chosen remarks, in which he stated that McGill unlike many other of our Canadian Universities, was the recipient of no govern-

ment subsidies or civic emoluments, but depended entirely on the munificence of private benefactors among whom the citizens of Montreal were pre-eminent, if not alone; and that thanks to the untiring efforts of its governors, and distinguished principal and the merits of its most efficient staff McGill occupies to-day the position of a national rather than a local university. After, Mr. G. W. Stewart had sung a very pleasing song and Mr. P. M. Brayley had favored his friends with the new and popular Alma Mater song, Mr. Frank Pedley proposed the toast of "Sister Universities" and in his accustomed eloquent and graceful style reminded his audience of the respect and kindly sympathy with which they should regard all subjects and institutions which they dignified with the title of "Sister." Referring to the Universities of Ontario he complained, and justly, of the great laxity of intercollegiate cordiality at present existing between them and ourselves, and concluded by expressing the hope that some means would be adopted whereby this want might be obviated. To this toast Mr. J. H. Ferguson, of Morrin College, Quebec, responded, assuring us of the attachment entertained by his fellow students towards our common alma mater, McGill, of their connection with which they felt proud. Next followed a song by Murray Watson, after which Mr. J. H. Bell proposed the toast of "Sister Faculties," in befitting terms, to which Messrs. H. Johnson, J. F. Mackie, and Thos. Watson, representatives of the Faculties of Medicine, Law and Applied Science respectively, replied. Messrs Bourne and Stephens then rendered songs that were appreciated *à l'envie*. The toast of "The Professors," followed, proposed by Mr. Alex. McLennan, and responded to by Mr. A. P. Solandt. The speeches of both gentlemen were admirable and conveyed to the audience sentiments of loyalty and admiration to which all were ready to reciprocate. The duet of Messrs. Ritchie and Patton, which followed, though comic was too restricted in its *personnel* to want much appreciation. The next toast was the "Literary Society," proposed by Mr. H. Mason, and responded to by the popular president Mr. A. H. U. Colquhoun, in a well appointed speech, in which the inestimable advantages of the society were well set forth. The toast of "Sports," was then proposed by Mr. R. B. O'Sullivan, and responded to by Mr. E. DeForrest Holden, who, as an officer of the University Athletic Association congratulated the Artsmen on the flourishing aspect of this phase of college life at McGill, and hoped that, although we had sustained defeats in some departments, our enthusiasm and determination to excel would still be maintained. After a song by Hilton Pedley, Murray Watson proposed with characteristic eloquence the toast of "The Ladies," to which Mr. T. England replied

"With all the wit
That nature gives and art restores,"

courageously attempted to do justice to the absent fair. The toast to the "Seniors," was proposed by Mr. C. H. Livingstone, to which Mr. Lochhead replied. The evening's entertainment was then brought to a close by Mr. J. H. Bell's proposing the health of "Our Host," which elicited a short but *à propos* reply from Mr. J.

B. Durocher, the popular proprietor of the Richelieu. Coaches were in attendance about one o'clock a.m.

College World.

The annual catalogue of Tufts College shows quite an increase in the number of students. The college of letters has seventy-eight in the regular and twenty-four in the engineering courses, and the divinity school twenty-five. Total 127. The faculty numbers twenty professors and instructors, and four lecturers. The only change in the list is the addition of the name of Josiah P. Rider as assistant in inorganic chemistry. Helen Mellen, who has been the real librarian for some years, is now given the full title in just recognition of her fitness for the position. The courses in engineering are two—civil engineering and electrical engineering. This college was one of the first to require special studies and examinations for the degree of M.A., and it has now taken another step in advance as regards admission to the divinity school by announcing that "after this year only graduates of some college will be admitted as candidates for the degree of bachelor of divinity. Others, however, will be recommended for the degree who, at the end of the prescribed course of study, have made in the judgment of the faculty equivalent attainments."

The Harvard University catalogue for 1884-85 has just been published. It contains an account of the Jefferson Physical Laboratory; a prize for the students of the college is also mentioned—the Chauncey Wright fund for the best mathematical thesis on a subject or subjects announced by the college faculty. This prize is open to all persons pursuing regular courses of study at the university during the year 1884-85 as seniors, juniors or graduates. There are published, too, in this volume, the Boylston medical prizes of \$250 and \$200 respectively, offered annually for the best dissertations on questions in medical science proposed by the Boylston medical committee. In the college proper there are 1006 students, divided as follows: seniors 191, juniors, 234, sophomores 256, freshmen 255, special students 70. The total number of students connected with the university is 1586, divided between the different departments as follows: College proper 1006, divinity school 26, law school 153, scientific school 28, medical school 249, dental school 35, Bussey institution 6, veterinary school 21, graduate department 70. The number of teachers connected with the university is 178. A comparison with the catalogue of a year ago shows an increase in the number of college students of 34, and an increase in the number of students of the university of 64.

PRINCETON College catalogue for the present academic year has been issued. It shows that there are in the faculty thirty-nine professors and instructors, twenty-two of whom give instruction and lectures in the scientific department. There are seven fellows at present pursuing their studies in Leipsic and Princeton, sixty-six graduate students are following higher courses of study offered here, nearly all of whom are studying with Dr. McCosh in history of philosophy. Among

the 368 undergraduate students in the academic department, 98 are in the senior class, 100 in the junior, 64 in the sophomore, 99 in the freshman, and 7 are special students not studying for a degree. In the John C. Green school of science 10 are seniors, 20 juniors, 20 sophomores, 26 freshmen and 5 specials, making a total of 31. This makes the number of men studying in the various departments 519. The new elective system in the two upper classes, which went into effect last September, is given in full, and shows that there are seven separate courses for the juniors and seventeen for the seniors. There are seven fellowships, including the classical, which has this year been made a full fellowship, entitling the receiver to \$600 for one year. In addition to these fellowships are twenty prizes offered to the students—most of them to seniors, but some to the lower classmen. The Lyman H. Atwater prize for political science is offered for the first time this year. This prize was contributed by the class of '83 as their memorial gift to the college.

Societies.

NOTICE.

The last regular meeting of the Maritime Association for the season will be held in the English Lecture room on Wednesday, 4th inst., at 7.30 p.m. A full attendance is requested.

UNDERGRADUATES LITERARY SOCIETY.

At the weekly meeting of this Society on Friday Evening, 16th January, Mr. A. Yates the vice-president occupied the chair. After a reading by Mr. Walt, Mr. Lohead gave an essay on "Coral Reefs." The subject for debate was: "Shall the English language become the language of the world." Messrs. Livingstone, O'Sullivan and Pritchard supported the affirmative and Messrs. Patterson, Dalpé and Brayley the negative. The leaders were well prepared and gave an exhaustive review of the subject. With one or two exceptions the other speakers showed evidence of preparation. One speaker after expressing surprise at the "minor points" raised by those preceding him, proceeded to take up the character of Mark Twain, and contributed considerable amusement to the society. The decision was in favor of the negative.

On Friday, 23rd inst., there was not as large an attendance as there ought to have been under the circumstances, it being the occasion of Dr. Harrington's lecture. The President occupied the chair. Mr. J. Higgins gave a reading, "Death of Marmion," which was listened to with rapt attention, and at its conclusion was laudly applauded. The address of Mr. Harrington cannot be summarized. If the Professor's consent can be obtained, the intention is to have it printed in pamphlet form. The universal verdict of the Society places it as a most interesting and instructive address.

STUDENTS Y. M. C. A.

MR. OBER'S VISIT.

For several days last week we had with us Mr. Ober of the International Committee Y. M. C. A. New York. He came at the request of our Association and on purpose to meet students of McGill. As this was his first visit to our college there was considerable expectation concerning him. As was expected Mr. Ober proved to be a straightforward practical speaker; for although there was not the slightest attempt at oratory in his address on Sunday afternoon yet the common-sense way in which he spoke, meaning every word he said, could not but impress a listener. This practical spirit comes to the fore in any business matter, he is a splendid organizer and as the association was been hitherto rather badly organized his coming was most opportune.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Ober with about twenty of these most interested met for conference at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kingman, Victoria Street, whose guest he was, and who had kindly put their parlors at our service. This was probably the best gathering of all; for here Mr. Ober's experience and practical business sense were most helpful; for plans of work and ways of management were suggested by him which will greatly help our students in their association work.

Sunday afternoon about 225 students assembled in the Association Hall when Mr. Ober spoke to Christians on personal work. He emphasized the facts that students could only be reached by students, that they must be reached one at a time by hand-to-hand face-to-face contact, that a man must first love his fellow-student and be wise in striving to get him to be Christ's.

For Monday evening the American Presbyterian Church willingly gave us the use of their church parlors. Mr. Ober spoke about the college work at large. Organized Christian work for students by students began in Princeton only eight years ago; the growth has been so rapid that out of 300 colleges with 60,000 students (and this does not include the large numbers of High Schools Academies and Normal Schools,) there are college associations in 190 with a membership of 10,000. During the last seven years 7000 have professed conversion; of these during the last year 1,700.

As to ourselves the usual meeting is on Sunday afternoon at 4.30 in the Association class room Victoria Square, the average attendance at this meeting is about 40. Our object in inviting college men to an association of this sort is to encourage a sincere manly Christian life among Christian students; and to induce to become Christians these who are not.

Hitherto our association has been drawing upon the purse of the Montreal Y. M. C. A. who have generously defrayed all our expenses; it is thought that we are now well able to pay our own way. A motion to this effect was made at the last business meeting when the membership fee was fixed at 50c. a year. Those who are at present members or join this year will pay half that amount at the annual meeting about first of March.

"Why is the dissecting room like the river St. Lawrence in winter time?" "Because they are both subject to stiffening." "O, I-see."

Personals.

We have lately heard from John Swan, of class '78 Science: "We are working," he writes, at Stoney Creek, (Selkirks) on a bridge over this creek, which is to be 293 ft. high, the highest wooden structure in the world I believe. I have one side cross-sectioned and am working at the other. Our contour lines are 5 ft. apart. We use three rope ladders and have 1,000 ft. of rope in use. It is the roughest work west of Winnipeg, but have got it well under control. It is very cold now hanging on to a rope with temperature 20s below as it has been for the past two weeks. "Foster" (B. A. Sc '82) is doing first class here—is division engineer has charge of six miles of work. I lately gave the centres and grades in the tunnel 460 ft. long we worked from both ends and struck exactly.

Fred Miller, B. A. Sc. '82, has at last been heard from. He has been employed as engineer on the Napanee and Tamworth R. R. and in company with T. D. Green of the same class passed the examination just held for Land Surveyors before the Board of Ontario.

Fred Miller, B. Ap. Sc., '82 and T. D. Green, B. Ap. Sc., passed successfully on the 8th January, at Toronto their final examinations for certificates in Provincial Land Surveying.

S. H. Raymond B. A. will resume his studies in Medicine about Feb. 25th.

Mr. J. A. Ferguson, representative from Morrin College, Quebec, to the Arts Dinner remained in the city during last week to enjoy the Carnival.

W. W. White B. A. of third year Medicine, will take his *ad eundem* B. A. degree from McGill this session.

Between the Lectures.

Polite Professor.—"Construe and translate the first verse, please." Undaunted Freshman.—"Arma virumque cano." I sing arms, a man, and a canoe!"

Co-ED.—"Yes I am learning crockery painting; it is all the rage." Male Student—"Yes, it seems to be. Do you paint anything besides your mug?" And now she only considers him as a brother.—*Argus*.

Freshie: "What is the derivation of the word ovation?" Senior: "Ovation, my little fellow, comes from the Latin *ovum*, an egg. It arose from the custom of applying rotten eggs to distinguished political speakers, which was called giving them an ovation."

Professor of Experimental Physics: "Will you try the full shock?" Courageous Junior: "O yes, guess I can stand it."—C. J. seizes the handles, which he instantly jerks off the battery, yelling frantically "Oh! I say, hold up."—C. J. is still D'F as a result of his *Hold-en* too tightly.

Scene: Dining room in a Prof.'s house. Time: Noon. Prof. of Latin (to student boarder).—"Will you have some jam?" Student Boarder.—"Not any, thanks; jam satis!" Prof., (turning pale).—"Are you ill, sir?" Student Boarder, (heartlessly).—"Sic sum!" The Professor is expected to recover—damages.

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