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THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

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VOL. 5.

WOLFFVILLE, N. S., FEBRUARY, 1879.

No. 5.

SONNET.

Search while thou wilt, and let thy reason go
To ransom truth, ev'n to th' abyss below;
Rally the scattered causes; and that line
Which nature twists, be able to untwine;
It is thy Maker's will, for unto none
But unto reason can He e'er be known.
The devils do know thee, but those damn'd me-
teors

Build not thy glory, but confound thy creatures.
Teach my endeavors so thy works to read,
That learning them in thee I may proceed.
Give thou my reason that instructive flight,
Whose weary wings may on thy hands still light.
Teach me to soar aloft, yet ever so,
When near the sun, to stoop again below.
Thus shall my humble feathers safely hover,
And though near earth, more than the heavens
cover.

And then at last, when homeward I shall drive,
Rich with the spoils of nature, to my hive,
Then will I sit like that industrious fly,
Buzzing thy praises, which shall never die,
Till death abrupts them, and succeeding glory
Bid me go on in a more lasting story.

SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

REMINISCENCES OF EUROPEAN STUDY AND TRAVEL.—NO. 5.

BY PROF. D. M. WELTON.

In the Spring of last year I had occasion
to spend six weeks in the Reading Room of

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Before detailing the circumstances which
made this necessary, a brief description may
be given of this great establishment. Though
situated in London, it is yet the property of
the nation, and an institution of which every
Englishman may justly feel proud.

The buildings with their adjoining court-
yards occupy seven acres of ground, and up

to the present time, have cost nearly a
million sterling. But extensive as they are,
so much more room is required that it has
lately been decided to remove the Natural
History Collection to South Kensington,
where a suitable building has been erected
for its reception.

The contents of the Museum are divided
into thirteen departments, each being under
the care of a person specially qualified for
the place. Prof. Owen, who has been called
the English Cuvier, superintends the Natural
History departments. The highest office
in the institution is that of Principal Li-
brarian, a position now filled by John Winter
Jones, Esq., who is one of the first biblio-
graphers living. His knowledge of books,
in regard to their authors, subjects, editions,
and history, is marvellous.

A complete inspection of the various art-
treasures found in these spacious rooms and
galleries would require weeks or even months.
In my last paper, reference was made to the
world-renowned Elgin marbles and Assyrian
slabs. In the Egyptian galleries is a fine
collection of remains from ancient Memphis
and Thebes. The hieroglyphics seen on many
of these stones have afforded scholars a most
difficult subject for investigation. Perhaps
the most interesting object is the celebrated
Rosetta Stone, which has three inscriptions
of the same purport, the decipherment of
which gave Dr. Young a key to the inter-
pretation of Egyptian characters. This stone
was among the treasures collected by the
French, when they invaded Egypt, but they
surrendered it to the English at the capitula-
tion of Alexandria.

No object receives more attention in the

Medal Room than the Barberini or Portland Vase, which belongs to the Duke of Portland. It was found in the early part of the seventeenth century in a sepulchral chamber a few miles from Rome. It went into the hands of the Barberini family, and then into Sir William Hamilton's, who sold it to the Duchess of Portland for 1800 guineas. Many years ago a crazy man got access to the room in which it was kept, and broke it into fragments. It was, however, so well repaired that the fractures are scarcely visible. The room in which it is now kept can be visited only by special permission.

To students of Zoology, Palæontology, Botany, etc., the collections relating to these several sciences possess many and great attractions. But to the majority of persons the principal interest centres probably in

THE GREAT LIBRARY,

which is supposed to be the largest in the world except, perhaps, the Imperial Library of Paris. It contains nearly a million volumes, and the rate of increase is over 20,000 volumes a year. There are few German Libraries which contain more German books, few French Libraries which contain more French books, few American Libraries which contain more American books, than are found in this one library. It is thus like London itself, which is said to number in its population more Scotchmen than are found in Edinburgh, more Irishmen than are found in Cork, and more Jews than are found in Jerusalem. In fact, it might be called a collection of libraries, many of them large and valuable, as those presented by George II. and Thomas Grenville. In the room which contains the latter, may be seen the signature of Shakespeare to the mortgage of a house in Blackfriars; Queen Elizabeth's prayer book, entirely in her own writing when Princess; the original draft of the will of Mary Queen of Scots; the original agreement between Milton and Symons the printer for the sale of the copyright of *Paradise Lost*; Nelson's unfinished letter, written on the eve of the battle of Trafalgar; and the famous Magna Charta of King John,

dated at Runnymede. A long gallery adjoining contains George III.'s library, which was handed over to the nation in 1823. It comprises upwards of 80,000 volumes, and cost about £130,000. The collection is remarkable for the discriminating choice of the editions, and for the bibliographical peculiarities and varieties of the copies. Here is a volume of the Arabic Koran, written in gold 860 years ago; the original Bull of Pope Innocent III., granting the kingdoms of England and Ireland in fee to King John and his successors; and the original Bull of Pope Leo X., conferring on Henry VIII. the title of Defender of the Faith.

In the inner quadrangle of the Museum, and reached by a long corridor, is the

NEW READING ROOM,

which is the finest for the purpose in the world. It is circular in plan, and is covered with a dome 140 feet in diameter, and 106 feet high. In point of diameter it is larger than any existing dome, except the Pantheon at Rome, which exceeds it by only two feet. It is constructed principally of iron, of which more than 2,000 tons were used. The quantity of glass employed in the dome was about 60,000 superficial feet.

Here good accommodation is afforded to 300 readers, each of whom has a space of 4 feet 3 inches allotted to him, with an ink-stand, a hinged desk, and a folding shelf. There are 35 reading tables, two of which are set apart for the exclusive use of ladies. Near the centre of the room are placed on shelves the catalogues of books and manuscripts contained in the library, and which readers must consult for the "press mark" before they can send for a volume. Around the walls are shelves for the reception of 85,000 volumes. Those under the gallery are filled with books of reference, about 20,000 in number, which readers may remove to their desks without any formal application. All other books must be applied for through the medium of signed tickets, which are handed to attendants, who bring the books from their shelves in the library.

Admission to read here is granted on

special application to the Principal Librarian, supported by the recommendation of two persons of known respectability. When admission is granted to the applicant he receives a ticket, which is good for six months, at the end of which time it can be renewed for another six months, and so on for years if the holder wishes. And all the reader is charged for these magnificent privileges is simply nothing, John Bull provides the whole entertainment out of his own pocket.

It is frequently the case that every seat in the room is occupied, and various nationalities are represented among the readers. Englishmen and Americans, Frenchmen and Germans, Greeks and Turks, Chinese and Japanese, pursuing different lines of investigation, resort to this room for information, and seldom do they fail to obtain it. The necessity of my visiting the place grew out of my Semitic studies in Leipzig. Having occasion in those studies to consider the state of Hebrew learning in England, my attention was naturally turned to its most distinguished exponent, the great

JOHN LIGHTFOOT.

As his knowledge of Biblical and Talmudical Hebrew was greater, perhaps, than any other man's in Europe in his day, the question arose, whence did he obtain this knowledge? In other words, who were his teachers? Many persons were supposing, I found, that he enjoyed the advantages of Jewish oral instruction. Such was the opinion of Prof. Delitzsch of Leipzig. No man, he remarked to me, could attain to such proficiency in Rabbinical learning without having himself been taught by a Jew. As Prof. Delitzsch is himself a Jew, he may have, on this account, the more readily inclined to this view. After corresponding with different persons in England, from none of whom I could obtain a satisfactory answer to my inquiries, I resolved to go thither myself and search for information within the walls of the great library I have described. Nor was my searching in vain. I found that the man to whom Lightfoot was especially indebted for the distinction he reached in

Oriental and Talmudical learning, was Sir Rowland Cotton. The biographers of Sir Roland relate, that at the age of seven he could fluently read Biblical Hebrew, and both understand and readily converse in that language.

I found, moreover, that Sir Rowland Cotton's instructor in Hebrew was Mr. Hugh Broughton, whose skill therein was a matter of general notoriety. He spent much of his time on the continent, where he frequently conversed and disputed with learned Jews, oftentimes showing himself to be more than their equal. And going still further back, I discovered that Mr. Broughton's teacher in Hebrew was one Cœvellarius, a Frenchman, Professor of Hebrew in Cambridge University. Among the Lansdowne manuscripts I found a copy of a letter written by this Frenchman to Sir W. Cecil, asking him to recommend him to this Professorship. Lightfoot was directly taught by Sir Rowland Cotton, and indirectly by Broughton and Cœvellarius, and all three were among the most celebrated Hebraists in the kingdom. What they were capable of imparting he received, and then advanced beyond them to still grander attainments.

If Lightfoot availed himself of the aid of Jewish oral instruction, it must have been either in or out of England. It could not have been the latter, for he never once left the shores of his native isle. Unlike Pococke, Broughton and others of his fellow-countrymen and contemporaries, who often visited the continent and held much intercourse with learned Jews, he sought the means of advancement in his studies wholly in his native land. And the weight of probability lies entirely against the supposition of his having received any assistance from Jewish teachers in England.

No acknowledgment of this kind is made by himself in any of his writings, or by those who have written concerning him. In his time, in fact, there were few if any Jews in England; they had not yet returned since their banishment by Edward I.

To Lightfoot's close and diligent applica-

tion to study—first, during the six years he was more immediately under the tutorship of Sir Rowland Cotton; and second, during the succeeding twelve years of his stay in Ashley—must be traced the working of the energies which carried him forward, and made him the first Hebraist England has yet provided. He had a natural taste and aptitude for Hebraistic and Talmudical researches; he had a physical constitution that would bear the strain of the closest and most unremitting mental application; and he devoted himself to his studies with a perseverance and courage and zeal which bore down everything before them, and converted formidable obstructions into the stepping stones of grander triumphs: hence the broad and lofty scholarship to which he attained.

What man has done, man may do again. Who among our Theological students will make the attempt?

SOCIALISM.

Gigantic evils are often truths perverted. The most chaotic theory of social life may have a nucleus of order. Socialism is not without its attractive features, especially in its more philosophic and conserving form. It is the avowed enemy of all tyranny—tyranny of rulers, of capital, of race. Looking out on the abysses of humanity, Socialists say that they shall be exalted. The world travails in pain because of poverty. Socialism proclaims an age in which there shall be no poor, no hungry, starving, freezing multitude. Its watchwords are those which sounded from the mouths of French Encyclopedists, and the mob which demolished the Bastille and the Bourbon: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. It proclaims that it will do what Christianity has failed to do. The church, tested by the achievements and failures of 1800 years, must be pronounced inadequate to the labor of a world-reformation. Therefore let the church perish. There is no Christianity in the mildest form of socialism; there is no God in its extreme form.

The right wing is faithless, the left wing is atheistic.

But socialism is not only hostile to Christian faith; it pronounces the constitution of the family, the bond of marriage, to be artificial and unwholesome. The sacredness of home—the holiness of its relations, its sanctities and sanctions, are only the sentimental devices which priest-craft has foisted upon superstition. Let such barriers be broken away. Let there be unlimited room for the action of affinities, let license be unchecked; the passions when left to themselves will run into natural channels, society will be free from the intolerable chains that hang about it only to retard.

By what means and methods does Socialism propose to effect a Reformation? By instrumentalities which change the morals of society? No. Social life is not to be changed by commencing at the centre and working outward; but by commencing at the circumference and working inward. The world is to be regenerated by taking the bread and the gold from the industrious, at the sword's point, if need be, and flinging them to the poor—the lazy—the base—the indolent, wasteful and improvident. Socialism proposes to regenerate the world by making it impossible for a time, that the world should lack sufficient to eat, drink, and wear. All the laws that have hitherto prevailed, laws that run like ocean currents through history; laws by which one is placed above another, because he is superior in mind, in soul, in innate king-hood; laws by which talent, skill, industry, frugality and honesty reap rich harvests, and shiftlessness, laziness, inefficiency and crime reap poverty and pain, are to be abrogated. Society is to be resolved into its rudiments, into a formless elemental condition, and reconstructed on a new basis.

In the new Utopia, there will be no poor; but there will be no rich. Mediocrity will eat the bread of scholarship and genius, laziness will sit in the shade of the tree planted by genius, shiftlessness revel in the riches won by expenditure of heart and brain.

of the toiler. But in the levelling process, it is not the low that are exalted to the high; it is the high depressed to the low. The mass becomes the standard, there is degradation instead of aspiration. Superior power ceases to work when the superior prizes are no longer possible to the efforts of energy. Socialism says,—“You have, I have not. It is unjust for you to have luxury while I have penury. Therefore divide.” But Law says,—“Work and earn. If you won't work, you shall not eat.” Socialism says: “I don't choose to work, but I will have. If I cannot get peaceably, I will take by violence.” And so against Socialism are arrayed all law and order which have been evolved out of the slow and laborious experiences of the centuries; all the familiar maxims of social life; all the habits and customs formed by processes and mode of existence, all forms of government, from the absolute to the democratic; all genius and skill and ambition which ask only a fair field and no favor; in short all that we have known in life as on the side of law, or as the direct revelation and result of an overruling Providence, is against it. It is a moral gangrene, a disease of the mind precipitated into madness.

From first to last Christianity opposes Socialism. Even on its most plausible platform, the equality of man, there is inevitable hostility. Christianity proclaims that out of one blood God made all the nations of the earth; here is brotherhood and equality, but it is the brotherhood of the soul—it is equality, not on a material but a spiritual basis. It does not say that a king shall have no more power and wealth than a peasant; it says that the rich and poor must render account of their stewardship, according to their station and equipment. The one renders to Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; the other renders him the dagger and bullet of the assassin. It is likely that Socialism, in whatever form it chooses to work, whether in the bloody shape of red communism, in the conflicts between labor and capital, or in the doctrines of free love, will be the great

social problem of the future. Karl Marx, the leader of the secret Socialistic Societies in Europe and North America, looks forward with hopeful prophecy to a bloodless revolution in England and the United States. In Russia and Germany there will be bloodshed. The sword and torch must do what argument and votes cannot do. Socialism does not hesitate to make the incendiary and butcher the Apostles of its creed.

France has more than once been shaken by the mighty movement of these principles. Germany and England have felt the communicated shock. Whether the exigencies of the future will ever develop a speculative, arguing system, into an armed host aggressive, powerful and determined to enforce its principles with the sword, is a question on which uncertainties rest. Knowledge is becoming more widely diffused; the conditions of life are becoming less harsh and rigorous. The strife between employer and employed will be subdued in the progress of Christian charity. In the last century Socialism fought a brief spasmodic struggle. But nature recoiled from the worship of a prostitute; humanity, deceived for a space, sought God once more. Surely in a century celebrated for every form of freedom, for fearless and severe thought, for scientific advance, and loyalty to the Bible, we need not fear any permanent triumph of such a monstrosity as Socialism.

THE WINDSOR AND ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY.

Reproach is often heaped upon the undeserving, and it is strange there are not more to speak in defence of the Railway which passes through this and an adjoining County. Grumblers should exercise a little more consideration, and not vent their spleen upon this road without a full knowledge of its superior accommodations. The W. & A. Railway does not scatter artistically constructed and charmingly attractive placards, but presents its extra advantages unherald-

ed. It might be well for the company to follow example, and in a true light represent these special inducements, that the travelling public may be enlightened. By so doing the patronage of those to whom such inducements are pleasing, would doubtless be secured; but since up to this time no official announcement has been made, philanthropy and patriotism prompt an enumeration of a few of these for the good of those yet in lamentable ignorance of the facts.

Only a few days ago a man was heard to remark that this Railway is an insult and an outrage to the counties through which it passes, and that it is a wonder the people do not rise in indignation and take measures to rid themselves of the abuse. That's the way! The most praise-worthy exertions are not unfrequently met by depreciation, and we leave outsiders to judge from what follows, whether or not the charge is well-founded.

To give prominence to certain points let comparison be made with the Intercolonial, bearing in mind that it is called a first-class road. Time-tables are of course issued by each, but from the punctiliousness on the Intercolonial disappointments of travellers are frequent. Perhaps a bridal party has driven twenty miles, and found to its chagrin that the train passed some time before; or perhaps a person near by has overslept himself a few minutes, to learn on waking that the next train will not be along for two hours. Although similar blasted expectations may occasionally be experienced in connection with the W. & A. Railway, yet they are of rare occurrence. It is no small matter that those on urgent business should be left behind, and that for the trifling cause of slavish conformity to a time-table. On the other hand the advantages which arise from "hours of grace" are too obvious to need recension.

Then look at the friendly converse afforded to travellers on this line. Where first and second class cars are in one, passengers are in closer proximity to each other, rendering it more festive by breaking down social

distinctions. Who can estimate the value of moral reform wrought in this way? Moral elevation far transcends any merely physical good!

And trains on the Intercolonial move with a rapidity which prohibits obtaining much acquaintance with the country, and stoppages at stations are not long enough to form any knowledge of the towns and villages passed through. On our road the rate of motion usually permits one to gain considerable information respecting thinly-settled districts, while delays at stations give ample time to observe the principal objects of interest in the more populous parts. Nor is travel in quick-moving and recklessly-drawn carriages safe! How often are we pained at reading accounts of disasters in which scores of lives are lost almost instantaneously. No one need ever fear such a calamity on the W. & A. Railway, under its present ownership. The managers have evidently pondered over the fable of "The Hare and the Tortoise" preparatory to instructing their employes. This speaks volumes in commendation! Lives are too precious to be exposed to the hazard of wholesale slaughter.

But another says: "The charges are higher for both passengers and freight." What a selfish and ungrateful mortal man is! Will you see extra effort put forth and reap the benefit of it, and still remain unwilling to give adequate remuneration?

Another thing must not be forgotten, viz., that for agricultural exhibitions, horse races, and circuses a reduction in the fare is made, notwithstanding on such occasions the aforementioned accommodations are intensified. True, the applications of religious conventions, associations, and conferences for the same reduction are ignored, but if all these were regarded after a while like favors would be sought by every insignificant society, until single individuals would have the audacity to send in similar requests.

Friends in this region, see to it that your complaints are just, or check your fault-finding! Friends at a distance, patronize the road, for the above is reliable, although the company does not "sound a trumpet as the hypocrites do"!

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OUR subscribers have not all forgotten us as yet. We have received some very encouraging letters, several of which contained double the amount of subscription. For these we tender to our patrons our sincere thanks. Others might save our Secretary some trouble by remitting at once—in scrip or postage stamps—the sums of their subscriptions.

PROF. KENNEDY is already at work making collections for the new Museum. Any contributions to this department, from our friends outside, will be gladly received by him. It is not necessary, as some suppose, that everything placed in a Museum shall be a curiosity. The different animals, vegetables, and minerals, characteristic of the Provinces, should be prominent things in our Museum.

Why cannot we have a Gymnasium? The old Academy shed will soon be vacated, and as we understand the Governors intend to fit up one of the buildings next year, why

cannot a portion of the absolutely necessary apparatus be put in this building this year. Only about half of the college year is gone, but the best part of it for out door exercise, and the worse half is to come yet. Surely the students now on the grounds will need a Gymnasium as imperatively as those who will attend here next year. Walking is not all the exercise nor the exclusive kind of exercise the student requires, and in fact it becomes terribly monotonous. But why insist on the benefits of a Gymnasium; all acknowledge them. Then let us have what we can obtain without unnecessary expense, and the students will willingly, aye, gladly bear their part of the expenses. The debilitating March and April are coming. *Hoc fiat.*

It is said that every thought, every action has an influence in moulding character, and character is what a man is in his thoughts and aspirations. A due regard for the rights of others is an important element in a good character. No one denies this in theory but many in practice. We think this disregard of others' rights often arises from thoughtlessness, but this does not excuse. Now students have rights, and as students rights they demand just as frank and cheerful a recognition as those of others, and the correlative of rights is duties. Students have certain fixed hours of study, and during that time quietness, as far as possible, should reign throughout the boarding house. This is the students' right. Hence the duty of all to lend all possible assistance in this direction. It is not necessary that when one passes through the halls the building should resound with the uncalled for stamping of feet, or the bellowing forth of some stentorian voice, or shuffling. A little regard for the rights of others would do away with many annoyances. Even for the improvement of our own moral character, we should cultivate this virtue. It is also not necessary that apple venders should be passing through the halls almost every afternoon. If apples are required let them be brought at some other time than study hours.

THE rooms in the new College which are intended for the use of the Academical department, will soon be ready for occupation. Certainly the change will be a pleasant one and ought to inspire the Academicians with the desire to improve their fleeting opportunities. A *good* foundation for a college course is the *summum bonum*. A thorough drill in and complete acquaintance with the Latin and Greek grammars, the principles of Mathematics, and especially English studies, are indispensable requisites to success and enjoyment in the after college course. Don't be lame boys when you enter College, or you will halt all the way through, and perhaps get wearied out with disgust. The pleasant accommodations call for deep gratitude on the part of the students of the Academy, to those who have contributed to the erection of these building. Let this be an incentive to study.

THE last number of the *Dalhousie Gazette* records the death of Dr. J. J. Mackenzie, Professor of Physics in Dalhousie College. We had received intelligence of this sad news before, and we deeply regretted the removal of one so eminently fitted to advance the higher education of our Province—one to whom the students of Dalhousie must have been closely attached. "Born at Green Hill, Pictou, in Nov. 1847, Dr. Mackenzie had but entered his thirty-second year of life, and was just beginning work when he was called hence—a striking reminder of the poet's regret,

The good die first

He graduated Bachelor of Arts at this College [Dalhousie] in 1869. . . . In '68 he was 'Young' prizeman (3rd and 4th years). He took his Master's degree in '72, and, after a brilliant four years, course at the great German Universities, received the honorable distinction, Dr. of Philosophy, in '77." We had noted with pleasure Dr. Mackenzie's efforts in the educational work of the Province. In the words of the Senate of Dalhousie College, "His work was well and nobly done." This is highest praise. To the students of

Dalhousie are tendered our heartfelt sympathies.

It may be a matter involving some difference of opinion as to how far a College journal should go in its criticism of College affairs, especially those under control of the Faculty. Some of our contemporary sheets are very outspoken on these points, while others—ourselves included—have maintained a spirit of resignation and complete acquiescence in all such cases. This is an age of rapid advancement in the outside world, and particularly so in the line of mental and metaphysical research. Whether educational institutions in general have kept abreast of this progressive movement or not, we will not undertake to say at present; in regard to our own course, however, we fear there has been a falling short.

Now we believe in being conservative, but the history of the past amply shows that this virtue has been carried to excess oftner than neglected in collegiate institutions. So far did this tendency go at one time, in the old country colleges, that had it not been for the efforts of Bacon and Locke, they were likely to have become entirely fossilized.

The field of study is certainly widening, and if our colleges maintain a cast-iron course that is essentially the same as it was twenty years ago, they must of necessity fall into the background themselves, or by their restricted course retard the development of thought and study around them.

In regard to our own course we might say that much has been done towards adapting it to the spirit of the times, yet we are of opinion that much remains to be accomplished in this direction. In the first place, we think our course is too restrictive to suit the various capacities and inclinations of students in general. It is all very well to talk about culture and discipline, and about studying with these things alone in view, but while students are of opinion that they can receive quite as good mental culture in the pursuit of studies which they can put to practical use in subsequent life, it will only be by the sheer force

of custom that they will be induced to follow in the line of prescribed studies. Now we would not wish to exclude any branch of study laid down in our curriculum as useless or unimportant, much less would we imagine that we are likely to attain to great proficiency in any of them. Yet, as all that we expect in a short course of four years is to lay such a foundation in the different branches as we shall be able during a life of study to build the superstructure of a liberal education upon, we think too much time, proportionately, is spent on a few branches.

We are not quite prepared to accept the statement that "the study of the higher Algebra, Calculus, etc., are not worth the labor expended on them, to men preparing for the general callings of life," though it comes from as good an authority as Dr. Watts, and is quoted by him from Dr. George Cheyne; yet while our regular course in Mathematics is almost, if not altogether equal to that of any American College, and at the same time we fall so far short of their standing in so many other branches, does it not seem that undue prominence is given to that department? Many of the branches taught in our course are crowded into a length of time entirely insufficient to do them anything like justice. Thus the studies in our scientific department, especially those of Geology and Mineralogy are—we might say, considering the broad field which they open up—little more than begun; and this because the time allotted to them is altogether inadequate. Again the Philosophy department, which as a source of mental training may well rival any other branch of our course, is too short, and, as a consequence, too exclusive. Then, further, although we must admire the study of the classics as we have them taught, yet, while they are made a necessary study for the whole four years of the course, while at the same time provision is made for the study of modern languages, of which students cannot avail themselves to any great extent for want of time, there appears to be a slight discrepancy here also. Besides, there is that practically important study of Political

Economy, which at present is occupying the minds of the most prominent men in America, which here is so sadly in the retrograde that a mere primer is thought sufficient to study it from. Shades of Wayland, Mill and Adam Smith! What do you think of Juniors studying Political Economy from Mrs. Fawcett's Political Economy for Beginners? There are still other studies which we might mention here, which we think should have a place in our curriculum; as, for instance, that useful and attractive study of Botany, which Prof. Gray affirms, that, besides being eminently practical, also contains quite as good opportunities for the culture of the mind as any other branch of study, and yet we can learn nothing of it here.

It seems to us, therefore, that the best and only means of remedying these evils at present would be to allow some extent of electives in the course. Of these we may speak hereafter.

In making these remarks we would not be understood as wishing in any way to disparage the efforts of our instructors. On the contrary we feel safe in saying that no College Faculty in Christendom accomplish more work in proportion to their numbers, than that of Acadia. The answers to the objections urged we can therefore easily anticipate, viz., the want of funds sufficient to support such a staff of instructors as a better developed course would require. This fact we will not attempt to deny; but we nevertheless have a private impression that if a little less money had been expended during the last year on more modest buildings on the hill, while the extra amount was laid out in this direction, the future of the Institution might have been quite as bright as it will be under the present arrangement.

Correspondence.

DEAR ATHENÆUM:

Without,—all nature is clothed in spotless, glittering white. The trees are tossing their stately white-robed branches, and each separate twig looks like a string of jewels as it

meets the kisses thrown from the tips of the morn's white fingers. But the mournful, envious winds are not pleased with all this beauty, and will in a short time remorselessly shake from the trees their wealth of brilliant snow-jewels. Even now the wind can be heard rising and falling in mournful cadence as though chanting a requiem over the grave of a buried past. And as I sit by the glowing coals to-night, and listen to its moaning, my thoughts fly back to other Winter nights spent at dear old Acadia. The old familiar faces float 'round me, and the memory of loud voices soothes like sweet music the weary spirit. Oh, golden, glorious days that have glided into the eternal past, but which shall be forever present in memory's treasure house! Somebody says:

"A sorrow's crown of sorrow
Is remembering happier things."

I do not agree with the poet.

The memory of those happy days spent at Acadia shines like a star, lighting and cheering dark nights of disappointment and soul-weariness. Every beautiful thing we have to remember is so much gained, and is so surely ours that nothing can rob us of it, for the darker our lives may grow, the fairer and brighter shines the memory of past joys. Acadia has gone; but as I sit thinking of her it seems impossible to realize that the old familiar walls are not resting upon their foundations as when I last saw them. I remember, at this time of the year, the halls would be unusually quiet, on account of the absence of many of the students who had gone away to enjoy the merry Christmas time. But still an air of quiet expectancy, and joy would seem to pervade every timber of the old building. For would not the new year bring back the old loved faces, and with them still others to be taken to her warm mother heart. How strangely different all our lives have grown since then. Dear old Acadia, if you could see the care-worn faces and the heads touched with silver, would you recognize the hopeful, happy boys, who a few short years ago left your sheltering roof to bear arms in life's battle? If you could see to-night a white marble slab and a narrow mound of snow-clad earth, would you know that one of your loved ones lay there with quiet hands and noble, humanity-loving heart forever at rest? We know not why it hath been thus, but we are sure the loving father doeth all things well.

But these stray thoughts are forming themselves into a long letter, and must be checked. The new year is upon us, may it bring peace and prosperity to the institutions.

Yours truly,

UMBRA.

January 1st, 1879.

Exchanges.

We find a welcome place on our table for the *Bates Student* from Lewiston Maine. The editorials are fresh and interesting. In referring to "Reading and Writing in Preparatory Schools" in the Boston *Advertiser*, the *Student* makes some very sensible observations. "It is surely a disgrace to a College graduate, however skillful he may be at gerund grinding, or however well he may write and speak foreign tongues, not to be able to read, write and speak his own language properly. And is it not a serious defect in the prevailing preparatory course of study that English receives no more attention." And we might add, in our College course also. We believe too much stress is laid on other branches. In fact we do not put enough study on the classics, so that we can read them without the use of a dictionary and grammar, and we never study the English language as long, as critically, and as extensively as we ought. We think the figure employed in "Our Two Worlds" is obscure, involved, and altogether too long.

Far away to the south the *Roanoke Collegian* of Virginia is published, a new exchange on our table. An article on "Philosophical Dishonesty" will repay careful perusal. It compares the tendency and results of materialism, and the doctrine of intuitive truths both in the field of philosophy and of morals. "Now physical truth gives law. . . . The mind materialized, the Ego degraded, the lofty sentiments of truth, patriotism, integrity, righteousness, and honor are counted as mere moral abstractions, convenient servants, rather than controlling principles of life." The writer bears down heavily, though not too much so, on the doctrine of Mill that "virtue is an enlightened and refined expediency," and shows the effects of this principle in men's and nations' characters.

The *Tripod* again greets us in its new phase of a semi-monthly magazine. We have often experienced a feeling that news around home and the mention and discussion of current topics becomes stale when a College paper is issued only monthly, but still we shrink from the other almost alternative of quantity less quality. We hope the *Tripod* will succeed in its new departure. It is essentially a paper for the "record of those incidents and pranks which sandwich college life." The Locals, Personals and Items from Other Colleges are many and entertaining.

The *Kansas Collegiate* is also a new comer. Its discussion of current events is very good. We object to the statement (we suppose it is a Western idea and characteristic) that "Americans are nothing if not original." We presume if all the ideas *The Kansas Collegiate* has were critically examined, not many original and noteworthy ones

would be found, yet it would spurn the idea of having "nothing." The truth is, not many original ideas are evolved now-a-days but simply a new combination of old ones, and frequently a simple reproduction takes place.

Things Around Home.

Snow-shoeing and coasting.

Senior, writing a letter—"Say, Prep., how do you spell vexed, with one x or two?"

The gymnastic club are more on their muscle than ever. They expect to make important additions to the Gymnasium ere long.

Academy class in Latin came to the word, "*Decemviri*." "Put the accent on the 'cem,'" observed the teacher. The Sem. smole.

One of our portly old neighbors says he "reminds himself of the *fellow* in Scripture, 'The breadth whereof was equal to the height thereof.'"

"We wish to know," remarked the Dr. to the Psychologists, "what the common mind thinks on these points. Mr. A., will you give us *your* idea on the subject?"

In another column will be found a letter from a young lady formerly studying here. It would add to the interest of the paper if other of our lady friends would remember us thus.

Junior, reciting in mechanics—"Every action is accompanied by an equal and opposite reaction; therefore when a cannon-ball is fired from a ship, the ship is sent backward as far as the ball goes in a forward direction."

There has been a marked senioric development during the five months' study of Porter. One of the class recently stepped into the President's shoes. We mean over-shoes, and he did it as he came forth from Reception the other night.

This leads us to remark that a new element has been introduced into the Receptions. The Professors and their wives have been present at the last two Senior-and-Junior soirees.

While we are speaking of the Seminary—and we know that we are not expected to say much anent it, though we may be suspected to keep up a deal of thinking—we must mention that with the new term came a respectable addition—quantitate et qualitate—to the number in attendance on that Institution.

The Preps. of the present year are, as usual, "the most promising class that have ever prepared for College at Horton." That's right, boys; a hopeful disposition is a great help under all circumstances, only don't depend on it too far, as you have stern realities to encounter in Matriculation.

Officers of Acadia Athenæum for present term: W. P. Shafner, President; E. J. Morse, Vice President; J. E. Armstrong, Critic; E. A. Corey, Recording Secretary; C. L. Eaton, Corresponding Secretary; G. W. Gates, Treasurer; G. J. C. White, G. W. Gates, Syd. Welton, O. T. Daniels, A. W. Armstrong, Executive Committee.

The French classes are striking out into new and pleasant paths. Once a week all the divisions meet for a grand pow-wow. A social hour is spent in conversation on the topics of the day. The monotonous character of the weather during the last few weeks must be a source of grief on such occasions. The conversation to be entirely French. Who will start a series of *Greek* soirees?

OUR CHIP BASKET remarks that "all anxious parents who have daughters at the Sem. may sleep peacefully now, since there are two entrances in the new College which will be exclusively used by the young ladies; but some mothers will not rest easy till they now that a private street has been laid out by which the female students may reach any desirable point without meeting or associating with 'those dreadful boys.'"

The Seniors have bade a long, if not a sad good-bye, to Noah Porter. Immediately after the last examination on him, endured a few days ago, they gathered together in No. 9 and held high jubilee, closing with a lusty rendering of:

Should Noah Porter be forgot,
And ne'er remembered be?
Should Noah Porter be forgot,
And Psy-chol-o-gy?
Psy-chol-o-gy, my boys,
Psy-chol-o-gy,
We'll take a cup of Porter yet
For Psychology."

As those Solid Seniors, formed in an ellipse, and grasping each the hand of his neighbor, their countenance illuminated with a joy that the world at large knows nothing of, saved up and down to the modulations of the tune, and came out in a grand burst of melody in the chorus, the sight would have brought tears to the eyes of a carpet-duster, and caused the hearts of the friends of Acadia to thrill with the sweet thought that their labors had not been in vain.

There is talk among the students of circulating a petition to the effect that that large Freshman be allowed to sit on the ladies' side of the hall in the Temperance meetings of the future. The only objection we see is that the seating accommodations are limited. Still, as the gentleman professes to hold the privilege in such estimation, measures might be taken to move in a couple of extra benches for him.

The world moves. The Seminary rejoices in a Literary Society. It came into existence with the New Year. The modesty of the officers keeps their names out of print. The Society meets on Friday evenings. The debate the other night was on "Woman's Rights." Now look out for social reform. We wish our *sister* Society all success, but oh! my! won't the sewing circles ten years hence be a sound for sore ears if this thing spreads.

The initial Temperance Meeting of the term was held on the 8th inst. The officers for the remainder of the term were elected, to wit: R. M. Hunt, President; Miss Jennie Lovett, Vice President; W. C. Goucher, Secretary; J. E. Armstrong, Treasurer; W. P. Shafner, H. Chambers, C. L. Eaton, Managing Committee. The programme for the evening was varied and interesting, comprising a reading by Miss Steeves, an essay on cider, by C. K. Harrington, a dialogue, between Misses Amy Cann and Minnie Robbins, a reading by G. J. C. White, a speech by S. Welton, and well-selected and well-rendered pieces of music, judiciously interspersed.

February was ushered in with a sleigh-drive. A septette, consisting of sober Sophomores and solid Seniors, participated. The day was cold and blustering, a day to stir up the fire, and draw close the easy chair and take down—no, not your calculus, for the day was Saturday—a volume of Dickens or Tennyson; but ulsters and warm blood and young spirits do not care for snow-squalls and prostrated thermometers, so those jovial young gentlemen hauled their collars up about their ears, and started. Several breakdowns added joy and gladness to the occasion, and a rude but substantial fence-pole to the vehicle. Said fence-pole, having but one end visible, attracted the attention of the sturdy yeomen, teaming wood from the mountain, to whom, evidently, a pole with only one end was an unprecedented phenomenon. Their wonder was immediately dissipated by the septette informing them

that there was another end, under the sleigh. In due time the party returned the pole. The Freshmen followed this good example a few days later with equal satisfaction.

Acknowledgments.

John Beckwith, N. A. Rhodes \$2.00, Rev. S. W. DeBlois M.A., L. C. Davidson, W. B. Hutchinson, John Donaldson, John E. Schurman \$1.00, L. S. Morse M.D., Colin Roscoe, Mr. Fullerton, Wm. E. Whitman, Mrs. Geo. Richardson \$1.00, J. C. Archibald, Arthur Simpson, Walter Barss, Howard Barss B.A., J. B. Bogart, Miss Carrie Kinney, Miss Lucy Haloy, Miss Walter A. Crosby, Miss Ida G. King, Miss Katie J. Dickieson, Miss Marion Vaughan, Miss Jennie Lovett, Miss Florence Chesley, Miss Annie Newcomb, Mlle. Huguenin, Miss Carrie F. Whidden, W. H. Robinson B. A., Miss Addie Cann, Miss Lalia A.M. Balcom, Miss Lucy Stronge, E. W. Sawyer, Isaiiah Dodge, Avard Longley M.P., Jacob Denton, C. F. Clinch, B. W. Lockhart B.A. \$1.00, G. H. Wallace, Prof. D. F. Higgins M.A., G. P. Paysant \$1.00, Miss E. K. Poole, Rev. T. A. Higgins A.M., Mrs. G. L. Johnson, John Moser A.M. \$1.00, Miss Jessie Woodbury, J. M. Longley A.3., Rev. John Brown, L. W. Elliott \$1.00, E. J. Morse, M. A. Davidson, Miss Annie Delap \$1.00, Wm. Weatherpoon \$1.50, Miss Sadie W. Mills \$1.00, Carmen Marshall \$1.00, J. A. Faulkner B.A., \$1.00, Emerson Read, Rev. G. O. Gates A.M., Charles Bill, T. P. Calkins, H. K. Eaton, Augustus Freeman A.B., R. Bishop A.B., Miss Cassio Harris, Miss Emily A. Cox, Geo. F. Adams, J. F. Masters, Z. G. Gabel, J. Masters \$1.00, S. F. Matthews \$1.50, C. G. Berryman 75 c., A. A. Wilson, Alfred H. Demill A.M., \$1.00, Rev. A. B. McDonald \$1.00, M. C. McDonald M.D., \$1.50, H. A. White, Rev. D. W. C. Dimock A.M., \$1.00, N. J. Layton Esq. \$1.00, J. B. Calkin A.M., per Geo. E. Croscup, Eliakim Newcomb \$1.00, John Dewar, Miss Emily Archibald, Mrs. W. H. Gridley, J. Freeman Steeves \$1.00, Miss Laura Crawley \$1.50, M. C. Smith, H. Schefill, J. P. Chipman Esq., Westworth Chipman, Dr. Shaw, Thomas E. Corning A.B. \$2.00, A. J. Pineo, Charles F. Rockwell, Rev. N. P. Freeman, Noah A. Dimock, Peter Maskill, Ing'is Craig, Miss Hannah Davidson, Dr. Bowles \$1.00, Charles A. Cook \$1.00, G. Dunlap \$1.00, P. O. Weeks, A. J. Leadbetter \$1.00, G. G. & M. G. King \$1.00, Dr. Heathrington \$1.00, Mrs. Mark Curry \$1.00, Rev. D. M. Koirstead, Miss Mary E. Atkinson, J. E. Rand, J. S. Witter, Miss Emma Crowl, G. O. Forsyth, Hon. W. G. Strory \$1.00, Chas. Schurman, Hon. J. S. McDonald M. P. P. \$3.50, Messrs. Caldwell & Murray \$2.00, J. B. Kinney \$1.00, Rev. David Freeman A.M., A. S. Murray \$2.00.

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