



J. E. Wells, M. A., LL. D.

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The Sonnet

I

How fair thou art the poets have long known ;
And I have sought the beauty which is thine
Through many days and nights of cloud and shine,
Until one note of all sweet notes outblown
Has spelled my ear ; for dearest things alone
Are found companionless ; and the divine
And single inspiration will entwine
The laurel, till it fit the brow of one.
And thou art rare among the things most rare ;
The beam consummate of the lights of day ;
The fullest note struck from the living flood
Of melody ; the gem that has most care
In the kind workman's hand, till he shall say
Thy beauty is the acme of all good.

II

Oft have I struggled with dull words, until
Vain sighs and palpitations moved my breast ;
And the sweet fount of fancy sank to rest ;
And memory broke the thralldom of the will.
Then, every sense, like a new-flowing rill,
Stirred with unguided life that suits it best
And th' whole being with fervor unrepressed
Gave birth to the soul-theme while pulses thrill.
Yea, as a wanderer in the dark strives long,
Held by the guidance of the moveless North :
So has imagination groped in earth
Till thou, pure sonnet, like a holy song
Of inspiration from the soul burst forth,
To find from my quick, gladdened lips thy birth.
J. F. HERBIN, '90.

James Edward Wells, LL. D.

The request of the ATHENÆUM for a biographical sketch to accompany the portrait of James E. Wells, waked in me a thousand college memories. I have before me a crumpled and soiled programme of "Acadia College Anniversary, Wednesday, June 6, 1860." It is of interest to read over the names of the young men who selected Mr. Wells to be their valedictorian that day: Silas Alward, William

Chase, Andrew P. Jones, Charles F. Hartt, Edward Hickson, William Wickwire, Robert Jones, Alfred DeMill, John Y. Payzant, Theodore H. Rand. If I were asked which of all the glories of that 6th of June—and they were manifold!—lingered the most gloriously in the minds of these ardent youths, I should be disposed to answer: The ringing words of the venerable and beloved President, Dr. Cramp,—*Quit you like men!* Certain it is these words were written at that hour in lines of fire on the hearts of some of them, and on none more enduringly than on that of him who had just spoken noble words of valediction. "The Future in the Past" was Mr. Wells' theme, and I may now, at this far off day, turn this torch of truth on his own unrecorded college past for a little, as I note his course of life since. But let me first note his way into college.

In Harvey, New Brunswick, within sound of the tidal waters, he saw the light. At fifteen or sixteen he began to teach a public school. Some two years later he attended the Normal School in St. John, and received a license of the first class. In the autumn of 1855 he entered Horton Academy and began Greek with Principal Hartt. By dint of special effort he overtook the first class, and forging ahead, got admission to the class preparing for matriculation, and matriculated with them in the following June. Financial reasons obliged him to teach school the ensuing year in Kent, New Brunswick, but he managed to read so much of the work of the First year that, on returning in 1857, he joined his old classmates in the Second year.

Now let me use the torch of his college days for a moment. In college, as in the Academy, he was a diligent, careful, and rapid worker, an all-round student; yet having special delight in moral and philosophical subjects. He was an independent thinker, and was prepared to follow where honest thinking led. A liberal in politics, with very radical tendencies, with unbounded confidence in the capabilities of man for progress, and a passion for bringing the Sermon on the Mount down into the plains and valleys of human society and life—an out-and-outer, in short,—such was Mr. Wells in his college days. He had surpassing faith in argument as a means of arriving at practical truth. "Let us reason together," was his process and method. His own conduct was wonderfully regulated by his ideal standard, and was the expression of an equable and noble spirit,—a man of principle in all things. He was the most far and open-minded student I ever met, then or since, with ethical response as true as the needle to the pole.

His life's day, his "future," has been characterized by the same elements and qualities—fuller, clearer, diviner, perhaps, but rooted always in the Sermon on the Mount, and in the life and deeds of Him who uttered it. I never knew an instance in which one's "future" was more fully and accurately prefigured in one's "past."

A rapid noting of the bare facts—space forbids more—of that future will show how earnest and laborious it has been. On graduation he taught a year or two in New Brunswick, and married in August, 1862, Miss Rebecca M. Chase of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, a graduate of Mount Holyoke Seminary,—a gifted and elect spirit, who fought her doubts and laid them. In response to the application of Dr. Fyfe of Woodstock College, Ontario, President Cramp selected Mr. Wells in 1863, as the teacher of classics for that institution. While there he taught, at one time and another, almost everything. In 1864, his wife became head of the Ladies' Department, a position which she retained some three years, she and her husband having joint charge and oversight also of the Boarding Department for the entire institution. During Mr. Wells' subsequent years at Woodstock he filled successively the position of Assistant Principal and, after the death of Dr. Fyfe, of Principal of the Literary Department. There is abundant testimony to his power as a stimulating teacher and inspirer of life and character. His interest in subjects of study was only second to his interest in the young lives with whom he dealt and their possibilities. For nearly the whole period of seventeen years of work at Woodstock he was the intimate friend and confidant of Dr. Fyfe, with whom he worked in relations of the most perfect accord. All this time, notwithstanding his arduous work, having often six or seven classes daily, he found time to write an occasional article for the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, the *Baptist Quarterly*, as well as for one or two Canadian magazines which were in existence at different periods.

The gradual but steady loss of hearing had for several years caused him to feel himself badly handicapped for his position. Early in the year 1877 the health of Mrs. Wells began to fail. A slow paralysis—seemly kindred with that from which her mother, at Wolfville, was released by death only two months ago—crept over her whole body, member after member, terminating fatally in February, 1897.

At Christmas, 1880, having married Miss Frances B. Moule, an accomplished lady of London, Ontario, he accepted a position on the staff of the *Toronto Globe*. During the excitement incident on the opening up of Manitoba, he spent a year at Rapid City and another at Moose Jaw, N. W. T. Returning to Toronto in the fall of 1884, he became editor of the *School Journal*, a position he retained under the changes of name and form as *Educational Journal*. For about seven years, ending two years ago, he was the chief, virtually the sole editorial writer on *The Week*, the paper originally started by Goldwin Smith.

All this time, commencing some years before he left Woodstock, he had been a regular contributor to the columns of the *Canadian Baptist*, and in 1889 was appointed responsible editor, a position which he yet holds. For several years he was thus connected with three important papers, two weeklies and one fortnightly, of two of which he was editor. During this period he also contributed for a time

a column of editorial, weekly, to the *Globe*. Since his return from the Northwest, he has also written a Biography of Dr. Fyfe, revised and reconstructed a MS. by an author now dead, on the History of Liberalism in Canada, completing the work by original portions of his own. He has also prepared copiously annotated editions of a book of Caesar, two books of Thomson's Seasons, notes on the greater part of the High School Reader, with much other work of this kind. He has frequently entered the field of the publicist, and with commanding success. His articles on the Manitoba School question were unapproached in Canada for their keen analysis and logical conclusiveness, and moved deeply the public mind. His exposition and defence of the policy of New Testament churches, and the spiritual mission and freedom of the churches, as opposed to state churchism in any form, has always been noble and adequate. Any one who has followed the voluminous issues of his pen will be prepared to believe that no other journalist in Canada has within a given period, often covering years, produced work of such uniformly high character, both in ethical quality and literary form.

Mr. Wells received the degree of M.A. in course at Acadia in 1863, and of LL.D., McMaster University, honoris causa, at McMaster, 1897.

THEODORE H. RAND.

An Acadian in the Holy Land.

BY REV. ARTHUR C. KEMPTON, '91. M. A., JANESVILLE, WIS.

(No. 2.)

Twenty miles south of Jerusalem is Hebron in a beautiful valley filled with olive-trees and vineyards. Four of us drove down to see this city with its Cave of Machpelah in which the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lie buried; and there we lunched beneath the oak which tradition declares to be the very tree 'neath which Abraham built his altar!

Returning at the evening hour, we stopped at Bethlehem, and knelt for a moment in prayer in that cavern of rock where our Saviour was born, a spot now marked by the Church of the Nativity, the oldest church on earth. The stars were twinkling when we left this little city, and we wondered on which of those starlit hills the shepherds were tending their flocks by night, when they heard the angels' song. As we drew near Jerusalem, I looked back, and, lo, the brilliant evening star was hanging over Bethlehem, as centuries ago that other star hung over the place, where the young Child lay! We had been traveling the road trodden by the wise men from the East, who came bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We also made a two days' excursion on horse-back from Jerusalem down to Jericho. It was an intensely tiresome journey across the most desolate of hills, where there was not a single tree for shelter, but where the sun beat down so mercilessly upon our heads that things turned black before our eyes, and at times we almost fell from our horses. But it was a journey full of interest. We visited Bethany, the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus, and saw the traditional guest-chamber in which Jesus was entertained. We passed a caravan of seventy camels going into Jerusalem with merchandise. We met several companies of Russian pilgrims, walking those dusty roads with staffs in hand and the songs of Zion on their lips. We lunched at the "Inn of the Good Samaritan," and pitched our tents that night upon the site of ancient Jericho.

Next day was a day of bathing. We bathed in the briny waters of the Dead Sea where one has the strange experience of floating like a bit of cork. Then we went to the Jordan and washed in its muddy waters. And finally I took an unexpected plunge into the brook Cherith; for as we went down the bank my saddle slipped over the horse's ears, and I found myself upon my back in the stream, much to my horse's amazement and my own!

But I wish you could have seen us when we left Jerusalem for our long camping tour in the Holy Land. At the head of the column rode Mr. Clarke, the American vice-consul at Jerusalem who accompanied us throughout the entire trip. Then came thirty or forty men and women well mounted on Syrian horses. When Mark Twain traveled through these regions he called his horse Baalbec "because he was such a magnificent 'uin ;'" I called mine Baalzebub because of his satanic temper. After the horsemen, came eight or ten palanquins in which the members of the party who were not strong enough for horse-back riding were borne by mules; guarding them was Solomon our Syrian dragoman, who had traveled from Jerusalem to Damascus forty-eight times. Then came fifty or sixty donkeys and mules laden with tents and baggage, while as many servants ran beside them and urged them forward. Ahead of us all was the "lunch-tent brigade" pushing rapidly forward that they might have luncheon waiting for us when we rode up hot and weary at noon.

Thus we went in single file along the rockiest paths, in many places so dangerous that we had to dismount and lead our horses, down into gorges and up hill-sides where nothing but a Syrian horse would dare to venture, fording brooks, climbing over stone walls, our horses many times falling but their riders escaping serious injury as though by miracle, now journeying through wildernesses of burning rocks, now through fertile valleys, now beneath the grateful shade of olive and fig orchards, now across the beautiful plain of Esdraelon, being often in the saddle eight or ten hours a day reaching tent at

night utterly exhausted, but rising next morning eager for new discoveries,—thus we journeyed on day after day through the heart of the Holy Land.

The peasant life of Palestine is full of interest. We passed scores of men plowing their fields with clumsy, one-handed, wooden plows such as were used a millennium ago. Women were seen coming from the hillsides with bundles of sticks upon their heads, or gathered round the springs with their shapely pitchers. Their villages are rudely built of mud and stone, and are without exception wretched, poor, and filthy, contrasting strangely with the wealthy cities that stood there in the time of Jesus.

We lunched at Bethel beside the spring where Jacob dreamed of Heaven; we visited Shiloh where the ark of God once rested but which is now a heap of ruins; we stopped at Jacob's Well and drank of its waters as did the Master when he was "wearied with his journey;" we climbed Mount Gerezim; we spent a night at Shechem where Jesus preached; we saw the fallen columns of Samaria, once called "the marble city;" we stopped amid the palms and cactus hedges of Jezreel; we lingered in Nazareth, the city of our Saviour's boyhood; we stood amid countless wild-flowers on the Mount of Beatitudes, recalling Jesus' words, "Consider the lilies of the field;" we came to "Galilee, blue Galilee, where Jesus loved so much to be," and sailed across its waters in a fisher's boat; we tented at Capernaum, "his own city;" we came to the springs of the Jordan; passed through the ancient cities of Dan and Caesarea Philippi, climbed over the snowy shoulder of Mount Hermon, crossed an expanse of heated desert, and saw Damascus in the distance before us, a green spot in a wilderness of sand.

We had left the Holy Land and were now approaching the capital of Syria. The keen delight of those days in Palestine will never be forgotten; but I confess that it was a weary, dusty, horse-sick crowd of pilgrims that entered Damascus after their ride of nearly three hundred miles. No tears were shed as we bade adieu to our horses, and no murmurs were heard as we exchanged the tents of Kedar for the hotels of Damascus. But never shall we forget those days in the land of Jesus, for with all their weariness, they were the happiest and most profitable days of our lives. A new light now shines upon the page of Scripture. A new strength has come into our faith. Jesus seems both nearer and dearer since we have been

"In those holy fields
Over whose acres walked those blessed feet,
Which nineteen hundred years ago, were nail'd
For our advantage on the bitter cross."

Fair La Cadie.

O ! La Cadie, fair La Cadie,
 Child of misfortunes past,
 Thy lands, once stained by weeping blood,
 Rejoice in peace at last.

Over the wilds of an eastern sea
 Flows ever the restless wave,
 Its rugged voice re-echoes loud
 O'er many a nameless grave.

The moss-strewn sands, O ! La Cadie,
 Smile on a sunlit sea,
 A wealth of beauty they unfold
 Vast as infinity.

Thy verdant hills and valleys fair
 Have kissed a thousand tears,
 As each succeeding joy or pain
 Gave life to hope or fears.

The fitful flash, and cannon's crash,
 The groan, and the sabre's gleam,
 Disturb no more thy tranquil shore,
 Peace now endures supreme.

The voice of fame proclaims thy name,
 And bards and verse enshrine
 The pathos of unhappy days,
 Strewn on the waste of time.

Thy fields a go'den harvest bear,
 And woodlands amply crowned,
 Sufficient unto winter's need—
 All blessings here abound.

Come not, thou fearful guest of war,
 To Scotia's hills of green,
 Where lived the fair *Gregoria—
 Beloved Evangeline.

WILLIAM VAN BUREN THOMPSON.

*It is stated on good authority that Gregoria Romonia Antonia, a native of Spain (whose remains rest in the ancient burial ground at Annapolis, N. S.) accompanied her husband on the battlefield of Waterloo. "She rests far from the orange groves of Andalusia where once her youthful beauty commanded homage."—MacVicar's History of Annapolis Royal.

The Drama as an Educator in Morals.

Our subject, as to whether the drama has been and is an educator in morals, is one that is quite intricate to consider. From the fact that there are different types of morality relative to different stages in history; and also from the fact that the drama has been variable in form and nature, it seems evident that the fairest way to judge its influence, would be to compare certain periods of history, certain parts of the life of humanity with the drama written for that particular time. By doing this we may fairly decide whether its moral tone would be an educator in morals for the people of that particular time, whether it has been a curse because it has been indifferent or hostile to morals; or a blessing because pervaded by a moral sentiment, and guided by a moral law. In this comparison we shall deal more particularly with the English drama and the English speaking people. First let us consider the drama as an educator in morals during the time in which it was exhibited in the form of miracle plays. This would be from the beginning of the twelfth to the middle of the fifteenth century.

At the beginning of the twelfth century the people were not much more than emerging from barbarism. They would no doubt be near the lowest type of morality. They were illiterate, and exceedingly depraved. These miracle plays which were written by the clergy, had quite a variety of subjects, such as relate to the Incarnation, the Passion, and the Resurrection, the purpose being to impress upon the minds of that people the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. But there was so much irreverent element mixed with the most solemn scenes and incidents of the Gospel history, such as the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, that we are led to question whether even these plays, notwithstanding the moral and religious purpose in view were an educator in morals. Although it may be that those exhibitions so revolting to modern taste, breathed a moral influence upon that particular class of people.

Secondly, let us briefly consider the drama as an educator in morals during the period in which it was exhibited in the form of moral-plays, from the middle of the fifteenth to the middle of the sixteenth century.

The aim of these moral-plays was not to teach theological doctrines, but to illustrate and enforce the virtues that refer directly to the practical conduct of life. This change from their original sphere of revealed religion into that of natural ethics, was due to the thirst the people had for novelty and variety. So much humour and wit was introduced that the moral purpose became so obscure that we are inclined to believe that the people received very little else than amusement.

The third and last form of the drama is tragedy and comedy.

Just as the miracle-plays were gradually supplanted by the moral plays, so about the middle of the sixteenth century the moral plays were supplanted by the drama of tragedy and comedy.

Let us first consider the moral tone of the drama during the Elizabethan period :—

The leading dramatic writers of that period were Shakespeare, Marlowe, Peele, Greene, Ben Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, Massinger, Ford, Webster and Chapman. This was the greatest literary period England ever saw. But what was the moral tone of the drama? It was decidedly immoral. There is not one play of the Elizabethan period—save Shakespeare's, and a single piece by one of his contemporaries—keeps the stage. It is evident from the immoral tone of the drama of that period that none of the writers, save Shakespeare had a moral purpose in his writing. And it may be questioned whether even Shakespeare had a moral purpose in writing his dramas. It is true that there is far less of the immoral element in Shakespeare's writings than in any of the productions of his compeers; but it is there. And what the Puritans hated in his works we have to expunge. But even if Shakespeare did not write with a moral purpose in view, he pictures human characters in such a way that we may draw moral lessons from them. The moral lessons of Shakespeare's plays come not so much from the fact that goodness meets with its reward, as from the fact that we are made to see that the true soul, even in its most extreme sorrow, stands far above the mean soul, whatever may be its triumphs. The suffering of the true shows itself infinitely more attractive than the happiness of the false.

About the middle of Elizabeth's reign a great moral change began to pass over England—no doubt the greatest moral revolution that ever passed over any nation. But this moral change was not at all due to the drama, but to the reading of the Bible. The class of people that were particularly influenced by the reading of the Bible were called Puritans. These people strongly protested against the dramatic exhibitions on the stage, on the ground of morality. But they were by no means the only protesters. As early as the latter half of the sixteenth century not only did Northbrooke, Reynolds, Archbishop Parker, Bishop Babington, and Bishop Hall protest against the dramatic art, on the ground of morality; but the University of Oxford in 1584 passed a statute forbidding common plays and players in the University on the very same moral grounds upon which the Puritans, and other distinguished men objected to them.

Passing now to the seventeenth century we find the tone of the drama very immoral. We shall not present any disgusting details on this point; suffice it to say that there is hardly a comedy of the seventeenth century, with the exception of Shakespeare's, in which adultery is not introduced as a subject of laughter, and often made the staple of the whole plot. Now, we cannot but agree with the Puritans that this vice is not a subject for comedy where it is made a matter of

laughter. If it is dealt with at all in the drama it should be in tragedy, because it is a subject not for laughter, but for pity and silence.

Under James I., and Charles I., the drama sank very low in immorality. The gravest vices, too gross to mention, were the constant themes. And they discuss these subjects with little or no moral purpose, save that of exciting or amusing the audience. This is the tone of the drama in the seventeenth century.

The Stewart age in England was one that needed purgation of the most terrible kind, and to effect improvement the severest and most abnormal measures would not only have been justifiable, but necessary. They made vice attractive instead of repulsive to the people. Vice instead of being punished was rewarded. Thus we see that the golden age of the English drama was one of private immorality, and public hypocrisy, and ended in the temporary downfall of the Church and Crown.

With the Restoration, the stage came again into favour. But the Sovereign Charles II. was a man of the lowest habits and his Court was shameless in its vice. The people shared with the Sovereign and Court in the taint. A multitude of comedies then flooded the stage which were calculated to foster and to propagate this evil in a perilous degree. Those who have had the misfortune to read them say that it is impossible for grown men now-a-days to read them without a blush. These plays of the Restoration writers have been thrust from the stage into the closets of librarians until there is not a single comic drama of that period exhibited on the stage today.

It has been and is to-day the purpose of most dramatic writers, not to enforce some moral truth, but to attract the multitude by amusing them. Hence we find that almost every play is framed upon the principle of immediately flattering and satisfying the multitude. The spectators are struck by some outward, obvious, unmeaning peculiarity of speech or manner rather than by an inward significant truth or suggestion of character. A drama that opens the slightest intellectual, moral, or political question is certain to fail. For instance, Robert Browning's dramas which, for the most part, have an ideal back-ground and enforce a strong intellectual moral, have no place on the stage. People talk of the theatres as a means of culture; but they take very good care that it will be nothing of the sort. Pleasure and that of the least elevating sort, is all that the public expects or will accept at even the best theatres.

It is quite evident that the most of the dramas of the past as well as those written for the stage at the present time foster immorality not only in the theatre-goers, but in those who perform on the stage. That it does so necessarily is usually denied with indignation by its upholders. But in France the discussion has gone one step further. There are friends of the stage there—men of literary and artistic eminence—who are taking the position that morality is undesirable on the stage, that it is a decided hindrance to art.

The most of the dramatists and those who control the stage are those who virtually, if not verbally, assert that there is no relation between the drama and morals; that the drama lies wholly outside the province of morality and is not to be judged by any moral standard. This is much like the idea the Greeks had after Pericles. They enthroned beauty and despised righteousness. A study of the English drama reveals that this later Greek idea is the central impulse of much of our dramatic art. Such an idea is decidedly wrong. If moral law exists it must be supreme. It should reign in the sphere of dramatic art as much as in the realm of business and social relations. If there be any such qualities as right and wrong they belong to all activities of man. As well might a business man claim that business should be divorced from moral law, as for a dramatist to claim that dramatic art should not be judged and governed by moral law. Whenever a dramatist claims that dramatic art is not superior to morality, is at the least independent of it, that the artist must give himself no concern whatever about the moral tendencies of his work, his work begins to be the work of a malefactor, and he himself is preparing to be fit company for fiends. One of the most subtle and dangerous foes of Christianity, and civilization at the present time, is that moral indifferentism which infests so much of our dramatic art, which accustoms us to look coolly and curiously on the plastic forces of human character, caring little whether they are good or evil.

This immoral tone of the drama has caused another class of people to rise up and assert that there is no relation between dramatic art and ethics. But this latter class is opposite and hostile to the former. The former class claimed that dramatic art has a right to exist outside the province of morality and should not be judged by any moral standard; the latter class claims that the drama is essentially evil, that in its very nature it is contrary to morals; that the only relation between them is one of direct and irreconcilable conflict, which should be ended by the banishment of the drama.

We can no more agree with the latter class than we could with the former. We do not think that all dramatic art should be condemned, because it has been abused. The best things in the world may be most easily and fatally abused. Because some artists have labored to supply stimulants to human passions we should not say that all dramatic art should be destroyed.

If the artist is painting pictures which teach people to delight in scenes of lust and violence; if he is writing dramas which glorify selfishness, cruelty, luxury, then we say it is wrong and should be condemned. But on the other hand, if the drama helps us in the attainment of a pure and lofty character; if it makes us love God more by showing us the beauty of what he has made; if it causes us to love our fellow-man better by revealing the splendid virtues of

which heroes are capable, the grace and humour of the most humble life, then it should have a perfect right to exist for the moral benefit of humanity. The drama should be judged by this standard which is far higher than the laws of symmetry and beauty.

Of course we shall not always find it easy to apply this moral standard to the drama, partly because our ideal is too dim and confused; partly because the moral influence of many things is vague, delicate, obscure; and partly because in this intricate world evil is so mixed with good and good with evil. It is quite difficult to trace the subtle tendencies of the drama in its historical development relative to different parts of the life of humanity in different stages of history; to detect the spirit which has animated and controlled it; to measure its legitimate effects apart from all other influences which have mingled with it, and strike the balance of harm and blessing. But from our consideration of the nature of the drama in the past as well as at the present time, we conclude that in nearly every period of history its influence has been more immoral than moral.

I. A. C. '98

A Protest Against the Use of Big Words.

The incomprehensible, unintelligible, inscrutable, and inexplicable complications, that characterize the unlimited linguistic expansions which enter into the excruciating developments attending the use of big words, fabricate a multifarious aggregation, far too oppressive for the ordinary intellectual digestive capabilities. Any attempt to exhaustively explore the unlimited amplitude of this vividly accomplished illustration of a painful pilgrimage from nowhere to nowhere, is sure to eventuate in the profound collapse of the humiliating realization that in attempting to make possible the impossible, and in striving to excavate a passageway under the sub-stratum of unfrontiered mysteries, the very unfortunate enthusiast has simply expended his accumulated abilities in trying to circumnavigate universality along those sidereal silences that always terminate in a marvellously minute opening in the mammoth mysteries of his undertaking; into which, as a matter of course, he will be compelled to project himself, and ultimately disappear!

But when it comes to an extraordinary achievement of successive, extensive aggregations of numerous syllabled expressions, fantastic imaginations, or tantalizingly distorted descriptions of abbreviated or unabbreviated actualities, that mine through the cellar floor of the deepest bottomness, and climb to tremendous elevations out of sight above the most elevated garret of ambitious loftiness; in the astonishing enterprise of stretching the rubber of diffused descriptiveness until its temerity becomes an invisibility, and culminates in an ear-

distracting explosion of theatrical dynamite; unmitigated by the slightest extenuating circumstance, or palliated by the most obscure argument in favor of the various accomplishments of voice or pen which, conducted through one absolute absurdity to another, until the extinguishing expedition was transmuted into its astonishing conclusions: then, the offence becomes inexcusably exasperating. And the inconsiderate investigator who is incautious enough to enter upon a serious attempt to discover what this tumult of glittering incongruities really signifies, will perambulate but a short distance upon his indefinitely delusive search for discernable deductions, before acquiring the dismay—manufacturing information that the supposed tangible highway along which he is supposed to be flying, is only a combination of intangible no-ways, by which he has innocently emigrated from the lucidness of Was and Is, into the barely possible, but terribly improbable, situations of May Be, where nothing is discoverable that has the slightest perceivable application to any conceivable material reality, or even to the dreamy propitiations that rest upon a supposed understanding of immaterial immensities: which, undoubtedly, means that this peculiarly well proportioned idiot, will be found guilty of the solemn shortcoming of self-extinguishment; in such a manner and by such means as will not leave the slightest opportunity for resuscitation.

Hence, therefore, consequently and thus, everywhere and always, big words are to be avoided! If you must talk, or if you are compelled to write, be simple, direct and understandable, employ the smallest words that are consistent with the expression of the idiosyncrasies of your personality. If you confine yourself to the use of dear little words, you will be astonished to discover that a very few words indeed will more than tell all that there is to tell in your most elaborate train of thought. If you use nothing but the sweet little words, you will probably never indulge the poor taste for literation; for this transgression and passion for the use of big words come so near to running upon the same lines, that the one form of literary iniquity is pretty sure to include the other. Speaking of literature, the writer would prefer that literary excellence should advertise itself; but for fear that your attention might be so thoroughly absorbed in digesting the innovation of this effusion that its literary features would escape your eagle glance, you are invited to observe that this article is an especially happy example of the illustrious fact that a very inexhaustive subject can be exhaustively treated through the medium of words which are, relatively speaking, entertainingly small. The logical conclusion is this: If you want to be a big orator, or a big literary gun, don't use big words.

SINCERE SIMPLICITY.

THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

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MAY.

The Sanctum.

The Resignation of Prof. A. E. Coldwell, M. A.

SOME time ago the Professor of Chemistry and Geology gave notice that this would be the last year of his connection with Acadia as Professor. The work in his department for the entire College year was accomplished in the first six months, and on April 4th, Prof. Coldwell took his departure for Astoria, Oregon, there to engage in the duties of a position which promises to be both lucrative and congenial.

After graduating from Acadia with honors in Philosophy in 1869, Prof. Coldwell was for a time instructor in Mathematics in Horton Academy. In 1881 he succeeded Prof. Kennedy in the Science chair in the College, and since 1883 has been Professor of Chemistry and Geology. At different dates special courses of study were pursued at Cornell University and at London, England, in the Normal School of Science.

Prof. Coldwell has not only proved himself thoroughly conversant with the branches of his department but with all subjects of current educational interest, he has shown wide and profound acquaintance. At various educational gatherings in the Provinces, he has represented his College by furnishing literary and technical contributions, and as instructor at Summer Science Schools.

During the seventeen years of his professorship, Prof. Coldwell was indefatigable in the labors of his chosen profession. He is a man thoroughly Christian in sentiment and in life. He has always

been solicitous for the highest advancement of the students, and as a member of the Faculty no one could be more unselfish in his efforts. For a long time he discharged the duties of Curator of the Museum with painstaking fidelity—the spirit in which all his duties were conscientiously performed—and under his efficient care he has seen Acadia's Museum become a depository of treasures, exceedingly valuable to the University. A host of graduates and present students will think of him with the kindest feelings and will entertain hearty wishes for continued prosperity. The ATHENÆUM, which always found in Prof. Coldwell a warm supporter, has pleasure in expressing sincere desires for the Professor's health and most abundant success in his new field.

The President's Visit to Boston and New York.

DR. Trotter returned from his trip to the United States on Saturday, 16 ult., after an absence of two weeks. The primary object of the visit was to attend the annual banquet of the New England Alumni of Acadia. Incidentally, the opportunity was taken of interviewing individual Alumni and other provincialists respecting the Forward Movement Fund. According to Dr. Trotter's report, the Alumni meeting was a spirited and successful gathering. The New England men maintain the warmest interest in their Alma Mater and manifest lively desire for the success of the forward movement.

Financially the visit would have been more prosperous but for the war cloud which obscured most other things. Despite this fact, however, the financial results were quite gratifying. James Pyle, Esq., of New York, subscribed \$1000.00 and Mrs. Pyle, \$500.00. Mr. Pyle went to the United States from Guysboro County fifty years ago and has been marvellously successful in business life. He is now a wealthy man but at the same time he is deeply interested in Christian work. City missions have always appealed to him very strongly and to the prosecution of missionary enterprises he has devoted large portions of his wealth. Another thousand dollars was provided by Mrs. Sturtevant of Jamaica Plain, Boston. This generous gift was made out of consideration for the ever kindly interest and words of Mrs. Sturtevant's pastor, Rev. R. M. Hunt, '79, than whom Acadia has no truer advocate and friend. His constant thoughtfulness for the College has rightly won the fervent gratitude of all Acadia's supporters. About \$3000.00 more were assured to the president by the Alumni whom he met in New York, and the members of the Alumni Association of New England. Dr. Trotter also established very happy relations with a number of other provincialists which he is hopeful will yield help to the College in the future.

The President reports great cordiality on the part of the Alumni in New York, to some of whom reference is made in our *De Alumnis*

column. Two other Alumni, resident in Brooklyn, who left Wolfville before the completion of the under-graduate course should here be mentioned—Rev. Robert MacDonald, D. D., the eloquent pastor of Washington Ave. Baptist church, and Dr. J. B. Bogart who is among the most prominent physicians in the city.

The Banquet.

IT is refreshing in the highest degree to learn of the marked success of the annual banquet of the N. E. Alumni Association, held in the United States hotel, Boston, Monday evening, April 11th. Dr. Trotter had the good fortune to be present to enjoy the fellowship of the occasion, and the Association had the pleasure of an address from our president, delivered in his usual stirring and eloquent manner. The election of officers of the N. E. A. A. for the ensuing year resulted in the choice of Rev. A. T. Kempton, '91, of Fitchburg, as president; Rev. E. H. Sweet, '84, of Mansfield, vice pres.; B. A. Lockhart, '84, Boston, sec'y; C. H. McIntyre, '89, Boston, treasurer; and Dr. M. C. Smith, J. E. Eaton, '90, Rev. R. M. Hunt, '79, and Rev. L. A. Palmer, '89, directors.

Our readers will be interested in the programme of the evening so we insert it in full;

- 1.—Invocation—Rev. C. H. Spalding, D. D.,
District Secretary for New England of the A. B. Pub. Soc.
- 2.—Banquet.
- 3.—Communications—Remarks of Treasurer.
- 4.—Address—Pres. Thos. Trotter, D. D.
- 5.—Solo—"When the Heart is Young"—Buck.
Mrs. Lizzie West.
- 6.—Address—Rev. S. B. Kempton, D. D., Sec'y Board of Governors.
- 7.—Address—"A Yankee's Impressions of Acadia."
—Rev. F. M. Gardner, E. Boston.
- 8.—Duet—Selected—Mr. and Mrs. West.
- 9.—Responses from sister Institutions.
 - (1) Mt. Allison Univ.—Mr. S. P. Archibald.
 - (2) McGill Univ.—N. M. Trenholme.
- 10.—Duet—"Night of Joy"—Macey.
Mr. and Mrs. West.
- 11.—Address—Prof. S. M. Macvane, Ph. D., Harvard Univ.
- 12.—Address—Prof. H. B. Grose, *The Watchman*.
- 13.—Rally song:—(Tune America)

An evening spent in this way, with so much sparkle of wit and flow of soul, together with the communication of the best thoughts eloquently expressed, and all in view of the history and mission of Acadia, suggests enlargement of interest on behalf of our schools

and renewed appreciation of their work and worth. The Alumni in New England are alive and in earnest, and their example could with much profit be followed by the general Alumni Association. The report of the Boston banquet makes the mouth fairly water for one here. What's the matter with the Alumni Association of the provinces? Are they all right? If so, why can't they arrange something inspiring and profitable for anniversary occasion? If the senior class cannot be allowed the evening of graduating day for a grand entertainment which would be a source of pleasure and financial gain to the University, why not have a first class banquet? It ought to be understood that a second-rate affair at such an opportune time is but a lost opportunity. It is time for some one to wake up.

Fire-Proof Building Needed.

THE ATHENÆUM has asked the attention of its readers to this matter before. The seriousness of the need calls upon us to refer to it again. The treasures of the Library and Museum are far too valuable, and their loss would be too grave an experience to continue their further exposure to the risk of fire, lodged as they are in a wooden building heated by stoves. They should be preserved with the greatest care in a stone structure. There are a number of convenient and beautiful sites on the Hill for the location of such an edifice. The rooms now used as Museum and Library are pressingly needed for class-rooms. It will be said, doubtless, that the strenuous effort necessary this year to make the *Forward Movement* a success, suggests the inopportunity of reference to the subject at this time. In reply, we say that the urgency of the need alluded to, constitutes an added stimulus towards raising the *Forward Fund*, in order that, the present financial programme being successfully completed, the construction of the needed fire-proof Library may be at once begun.

The Place of English in the College Curriculum.

ENGLISH should undoubtedly have a prominent place among college studies. The thorough knowledge of our language seems more important than that of the forms and peculiarities of the classic tongues of antiquity. English classics should be given precedence over the literature of other nations, past or contemporary. Men give their thought to the study of the magnificent productions of the early authors who are sadly ignorant of the beauties of Shakespeare, Milton, Tennyson, or Ruskin. These should be learned, nor should the former be thoughtlessly neglected. English is rich in classic lore of no mean quality and these closing years of the century are witnessing the incorporation of many valuable contributions among her treasures. This is not to say that too much attention is being given to the standard works in other languages, but quite possibly, too little to the masterpieces of our mother tongue. It is not to the credit of any man to possess the degree of bachelor in

Arts and to spin Greek and Latin verbs by the yard, if he is unable to write an extended article without grievous errors in construction and punctuation, not to mention inelegancies, which might be avoided, had due consideration previously been given to the genius of his native speech. It may be urged, and not without weight, that the work of the common and high schools should cover this ground. Granted that it should; the programme of the college should make such demands upon the student's literary knowledge and care that the possibility of completing the prescribed course without the possession of these fundamental principles would be precluded. No one should be allowed to carry away the seal of his Alma Mater until he has made wide and profound acquaintance with the principles of English and its grand and inspiring literature.

The Year's Operations of the Y. M. C. A.

AGAIN the time has come for the appointment of new officers and committees in the Y. M. C. A. Thus

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

The Associational work for the year ended April 15th, was more than ordinarily successful—a fact due in no small measure, to the ability and faithfulness of the officers. No special interest resulting in the number of conversions that could have been desired, was manifested, yet the standard of Christian living has been high, and devotion to religious matters, uniform. The various meetings throughout the year—even those for business were well attended—have been helpful without exception, and their degree of interest which invited the attendance of a large percentage of the entire body of students has been beyond the average. The president for 1897-'98, Mr. I. A. Corbett, has been very faithful and energetic and has done much to aid in the fulfilment of the Society's mission. At the request of the Association we gladly publish the following resolution unanimously adopted at the yearly business meeting:—

Whereas we are at the close of a most prosperous year in the history of our Society: and

Whereas very much of this success is due to the noble zeal and devotion of our retiring President: therefore

Resolved that the Society express its tender appreciation of our brother's faithfulness in the discharge of his duties, and best wishes for future usefulness in the work to which the Master may call him.

Mock Parliament.

IN the evening of March 26th, the ATHENÆUM Society organized itself into a Mock Parliament. A division of the house resulted in a majority in favor of Liberal-Conservative principles.

The organization of the Cabinet resulted as follows: Prem. and Postmaster General, Hon. L. A. Fenwick; Minister of Justice, Hon. W. L. Hall; Marine and Fisheries, Hon. P. W. Gordon; Finance, Hon. A. L. Dodge; Public Works, Hon. E. Simpson; Militia and Defence, Hon. F. M. Pidgeon; Agr. and Interior, Hon. H. G. Colpitts; Railways and Canals, Hon. J. N. Barss. Hon. J. A. McLeod was leader of the opposition. The house was impartially presided over by Speaker C. W. Rose, R. G. D. Richardson was Clerk and A. V. Dimock was Sergeant-at-Arms. On Saturday evenings the sessions of the parliament continued until April 23rd when an open session, noticed in the *month* column, was held, thus bringing the parliamentary business of this year to a close. The debates have been uniformly thoughtful and animated and the interest thrown into the sessions, as well as the decorum manifested, and the literary excellence which characterized the deliverances evinced a healthy and aggressive life in the Society. The country is surely safe with such a parliament to conduct its public affairs and further the national interests!

“Ideas from Nature.”

 new volume, *Ideas from Nature*, from the pen of Prof. Wm. Elder, A. M., Sc. D., of Colby University, has already been ably reviewed in our columns by Rev. G. E. Tufts, '66. The press work of the edition has been very tastefully executed by the American Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia. The work is thoroughly attractive in every particular, and the contents are calculated to be of inestimable service to the student reader to whom the relation of God to the revelations of Science has always been a profound mystery. Acadia congratulates her sister University as well as her worthy and devoted Alumnus, upon the issuance of this scientific and literary production. The author has favoured our Sanctum with a copy of his work. Dr. Elder has our hearty thanks.

Chronic Splenetic Criticisms.

 IN a recent issue of Wolfville's weekly, a contributor—who has not lost all sense of shame for he hides behind a nom de plume—quotes from an article in the *Messenger and Visitor* a brief passage, which, it is taken, furnishes justification for an attack upon Acadia students. The substance of the quotation is contained in the following sentence: “He presents a type of what I would term student civilization which, doubtless, on occasion, our professors at Wolfville would gladly welcome.” In less than this, the maker of the quotation could easily find opportunity for vilifying college students. The ATHENÆUM has heretofore refrained from any comments upon such petty insinuations,—made either in a town or city publication over an assumed name—supposing that when an exhibition of spleen had once been enjoyed, no further articles of a like nature

would appear in the local newspaper, which should endeavor to aid rather than defame these Institutions. But when it appears that the settled policy of publishing communications that seem strangely malicious, has been adopted, it becomes incumbent upon us to say a word upon the subject. An explanation is necessary in the present case for the benefit of those who, from the prestige of the quotation, might receive a grossly wrong impression. The real meaning of the words quoted evidently is that at the time when the "alumnus" to whom allusion is made, was a student here, the professors at Wolfville would, doubtless, on occasion gladly have welcomed "student civilization." Not disputing the validity of the representation of the condition of things at that time, the deportment of the students at the present indicates a decided change for the better; and we have pleasure in the fact that the condition now warrants no such words. To-day, such expressions emphatically do not admit of merited nor veritable application.

Notes.

On the evening of the 11th inst., Rev. Dr. Lorimer of Tremont Temple fame, will (D. V.) lecture in College Hall under the auspices of the Athenæum Society. Mr. N. B. Spinney, Chairman of the lecture com., has been persistent in his efforts to secure the services of the learned lecturer and it is a matter for sincere gratulation that he has at last succeeded. The attractiveness and power of Dr. Lorimer as a platform orator need no word of commendation as the recognition of them is more than continental. The Society and the numbers who will feel that they cannot afford to miss the opportunity of listening to the Boston divine, may count themselves extremely fortunate in prospect of the lecture. The doctor's subject will be "Change and chance; or Tides in the affairs of men."

On the evening of the 13th ult., with the concurrence of the teacher of painting and drawing in the Seminary, an Art Loan Exhibition Association was formed at the residence of Dr. G. E. DeWitt. Mr. H. H. Roach, of the College, was appointed business manager and Dr. DeWitt was made Chairman of a committee of the whole. The purpose of the organization is to conduct an Art exhibit of considerable value and magnitude, in Alumnæ Hall during anniversary week, May 27th to June 1. An admission fee will be charged and the proceeds devoted to Seminary interests. Rare specimens of artistic expression in painting, drawing, sculpture, etc., of ancient and modern production, will be collected and added to the interesting Seminary Art collection. Miss Scott, Secretary of the New York Water-color Club will furnish to the exhibition a number of sketches. Robt Read the celebrated artist who painted "The Five Senses" for the Congressional Library at Washington and who was one of the staff having in charge the Fresco decorations at the World's Fair will exhibit one of his finest and largest paintings. There will also be seen two famous pictures by Remington exhibitor at the Chicago World's Fair. In addition to these, there will be on exhibition paintings by renowned European artists, Turner, Rembrandt, DaVinci, Tintorette, Rubens, and others. Large numbers will be sure to avail themselves of the opportunity of viewing these gathered treasures of Art and at the same time of increasing the finances of the Seminary.

During the winter, the sessions of the Lycæum Society have been full of life and interest. Vigorous and profitable discussions have found a prominent place on the programmes, and other features, productive of general and literary advancement, have been greatly enjoyed. No more convincing evidence could be given by the Academy of sound and practical training.

The energetic officers of the Lycæum are: Pres., Percy Christopher, of Moncton; Vice-Pres., Wylie King, Truro; and Sec'y-Treas., Edward Scott, Clarence.

The service of song in the chapel exercises has been greatly aided by the addition of a large number of new books of hymns. Through the great kindness of Dr. Trotter, the proceeds of his lecture on "Hymns and Hymn Writers," were devoted to the procurement of Canadian Baptist Hymnals, which are used in the morning exercises with great profit. A number of Gospel Hymns have also been purchased, thus supplying a long-continued need.

The officers of the Athenæum Society for the last term of the College year are: W. L. Hall, Pres.; A. H. Hay, Vice-Pres.; C. W. Rose, Ch. Ex. Committee; E. H. Hindon, Rec. Sec'y. The appointment of the Cor. Sec'y and the Treasurer is for the entire year.

The Y. M. C. A. officers for 1898-'99 were duly elected on the 15th ult. They are as follows: Pres., Irad Hardy; Vice Pres., H. G. Colpitts; Cor. Sec'y, D. McR. Minard; Treas., W. M. Steele; and Rec. Sec'y, Fred Shankel.

Her colleagues on the editorial staff regret that Miss Burgess, a senior editor of this paper has been absent from class for a few weeks on account of illness. Miss Blair '98 has also been severely ill. Mr. Barss '01 has for some days been confined to his room. The ATHENÆUM extends sympathy to those who have been obliged to suspend their duties at this important period in the college year, and hopes that very soon they will be able to wield their pens with customary facility and effect.

The class in Typewriting at the Academy closed on the 22nd, and the contest for medal came off on the 25th ult. It was a close trial between H. R. Emmerson, Jr. and W. H. Lockhart, the latter winning by two words. The medal was awarded by Prin. Oakes. The class has been in charge of Mr. C. M. Baird and has been highly successful. The regular work has been carried on by seven pupils. Typewriting is a very interesting and important department and the numbers availing themselves of so good an opportunity of acquiring the art will doubtless in future be largely augmented.

Through the kindness of Miss Mabel E. Archibald, '95, a copy of the *Baptist Missionary Review*, published monthly at Madras, India, has been received. The number contains, among many excellent features, a very striking and fascinating article on "The Romance of Missions." The paper will be found in the reading room, and the article alluded to is commended to those who are even remotely interested in the subject. Miss Archibald is thoughtfully interested in the college magazines and the ATHENÆUM and its readers in the home land are not forgetful of their co-laborers in India.

The Month.

Notice.—Excuses for absence from lectures from April first, and for the future are to be granted to delinquents, only when valid reasons for such absences can be given. It has been hinted that the system previously in vogue was not perfect ; if so we heartily approve of the change, even though it may sometimes severely tax the ingenuity of the student, to frame within the limits of truth an excuse that will be accepted.

We feel confident that we are only voicing the sentiments of all who were fortunate enough to be present in College Hall on the evening of April first, when we say that the lecture by the Rev. H. S. Baker '99 furnished a most pleasing and instructive entertainment. Dr. Keirstead presiding announced the subject, "The Shipwreck"—a moral drama in three parts. The central character was a young man on the threshold of life, with brilliant prospects for future success ; but these prospects were soon to be finally wrecked by the *demon drink*. In the first act we saw him in his country-home environed by the chaste beauty and sweet quiet of country life ; in the second, as a star in the society of one of our larger cities ; in the third, deprived of life's brilliant prospects, and seeking release from intolerable misery, we saw him sink into a watery grave of a suicide. Throughout the lecture, the speaker held his audience spell-bound, with his choice and suitable selections from the English classics, and by the vividness of his description he made each scene a present reality to every one. We have no hesitation in assuring Mr. Baker wherever he may be called upon to furnish an evening's entertainment he can rest assured that the highest success will attend his efforts. Between the parts, vocal and instrumental solos were furnished by Miss Masters and Mr. Ford respectively accompanied by Miss Coburn on the piano.

The Ladies of the Senior Class, resident in the Seminary, were "At Home" to the Gentlemen of '98, in the Reception Parlors of Acadia Seminary on Friday evening, April 8th. The entertainment provided by the Ladies of '98, assisted very materially by Miss True, Principal of the Seminary, consisted of various kinds of games of an intellectual nature, interspersed with selections of vocal and instrumental music, these crowned by a most pleasing feature of the program, refreshments, served in a most liberal manner afforded to all a most enjoyable evening, and one not soon to be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to be present on that occasion.

The closing recital of the series was given by the Ladies of the Seminary Glee Club on Friday evening, April 15th. Notwithstanding the unpleasant state of the weather and the tenacity of Wolfville mud, quite a large audience greeted the performers as they came on the stage. Perhaps the highest eulogy we can give, and which we feel can be deservedly given, is to say that the rendition of the choice selections composing the programme, was equal to that of any previous entertainment of the series. The readings by Misses Emmerson and Estabrook were received with acclamations of delight from an appreciating audience. Both responded to encores. The piano solos by Misses Illsley and Dobson gave evidence of careful preparation and skill on the part of the performers. The duet by Misses McPherson and Munroe and the vocal solo by Miss Munroe were a-

among the best numbers on the programme and call for special mention. At the close of the programme Dr Sawyer announced, that Prof. H. N. Shaw, '91 of Toronto, formerly Prof. of elocution at Acadia who was paying a flying visit to Wolfville, would favor the audience with a few selections. Coming to the platform he was received in a manner worthy of Acadia. For an hour he entertained the audience with readings, humorous and pathetic, involving dramatic sketches in which he personated with remarkable skill a great variety of characters. Each selection was received with rounds of applause that repeatedly brought the performer to the front until his last and best, the arena scene, and the deluge of the city of Pompeii,—a selection from the last days of Pompeii was given,—when he left the stage, and the entertainment closed with the National Anthem by the Glee Club.

The members of the graduating class in the School of Horticulture were entertained, on Friday evening April 15th, at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Sears. Each student had the privilege of choosing a partner for the occasion. All who were present speak of Prof. and Mrs. Sears as ideal host and hostess, and of a most enjoyable evening spent in their company.

Baseball is now the order of the day in the line of sports at Acadia. A league has been formed which consists of four teams. The first is drawn from the Senior and Junior classes, the second from the Sophomores, the third from the Freshman, and the fourth from the Academy. A series of games will be played for the college championship. The first game of the series was played on the 21st between the first and second teams and resulted in a score 30-; in favour of the upper classes. On the 22nd the Sophomores played the Academy team, the score being 21-10 in favor of the Academy.

Another of those social events established by precedent, and anticipated with pleasure, claimed the attention of the Seniors and the Juniors on the evening of April 22nd. This was the reception in the Alumnae Hall given by the Ladies of the Seminary. The guests were received by Miss True, Principal, assisted by Miss Dobson, Pres., and Miss McLaughlin, Vice-Pres., of the Pierian Society. Topics interspersed with vocal and instrumental music, afforded to all present one of the most pleasing social entertainments of the season. About ten o'clock refreshments were brought on which served to revive the drooping spirits of those who realized that for them receptions were soon to be among the things *that were*. For their consolation we give the sage quotation "Haec olim meminisse juvabit." After singing "God save the Queen" the guests bade their hostess "Good night" and took their departure with pleasant memories of a most enjoyable evening.

On the evening of the 23rd the ATHENÆUM Society gave an open Parliament in College Hall to the Honorary members of the Society and the Faculties and students of the Seminary and Academy. The debate on *the Budget* furnished, highly figurative and somewhat prolonged entertainment. The discussion was carried on enthusiastically by both sides of the house. Facts and figures were at hand to prove any and every assertion made. The Speaker left the chair about 10:30. The order throughout was admirable. We embrace this opportunity of conveying our thanks to the Honorary members of the ATHENÆUM Society to the Faculties and students of the Seminary and Academy and to the friends from the Town who honored us with their presence and patience on that occasion.

The annual closing of the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture took place in College Hall on Friday evening April 29th with President Biglow in the chair. The Hall was artistically decorated by the graduating class under the special direction of Prof. Sears. Plants of numerous and different varieties, and banners of England and U. S. gave the platform a gorgeous appearance. The programme, given below, contained eight essays some of which were read.

PROGRAMME

- Prayer Rev. Mr. Hatch
- Piano Solo.
- SAMUEL A. PORTER, Deerfield, N. S. "Soil Management in the Orchard."
- CECIL H. HOOPER, Swanley, Kent, England. "Artistic Treatment of the Home Grounds."
- ERNEST H. JOHNSON, Port William Station, N. S. "The Spraying of Fruit Trees."
- J. ELLIOT SMITH, Wolfville N. S., "Fertilizers for the Orchard."
- Music by the¹ College Glee Club. Forsaken.
- AUBREY B. WEBSTER, Coldbrook, N. S., "Some Causes influencing the Fruitfulness of Plants."
- EDWARD WITHERS, Grand Pre, N. S., "Budding and Grafting of Fruit Trees."
- JOSEPH B. TINGLEY, Wolfville N. S., "The Principles of Pruning."
- JEREMIAH S. CLARK, Bay View, P. E. I. "The Mystery of Earliest Growth."
- Presentation of Diplomas.
Music by the Glee Club.
- Addresses by DR. A. H. MACKAY, Sec. B. W. CHIPMAN,
and others.
- GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

The careful preparation of, and the acquaintance shown with, the subject treated of, in those essays speak in no uncertain accents of Prof. Sear's ability and faithfulness as a teacher, and of the high quality of the work done in the N. S. School of Horticulture. At the close of the program Prof. Sears after a few well chosen remarks to the graduates presented them with their diplomas. Dr. A. H. McKay a regular attendant of these annual closings, and always a welcome friend of a Wolfville audience then gave a very entertaining and highly instructive address on the benefits of a many sided education. Messrs Wickwire and Dodge representatives in the local House for Kings, and Inspector Roscoe were also called upon; they responded with brief addresses congratulating the Prof. and students on the success achieved by them during the past year. The two selections with which the College Glee Club favored the audience deserve special mention. This was their first appearance before the public as a club and we heartily congratulate them on their entire success. We have no hesitation in assuring them that on future appearances this term they will be greeted with large and appreciating audiences. The meeting was brought to a close with the National Anthem.

De Alumnis

At 54 Orange Street, St. John, on April 9th, Prof. E. M. Keinstead, D. D. united in matrimonial bonds, John L. Masters and Miss Katie R. Hall, both members of the class of '91. The ATHENÆUM joins many friends in extending hearty good wishes and congratulations.

Irving S. Balcom, '86, is a prominent physician in the Northern part of New York city, and has also large real estate interests. He is a man of fine public spirit.

George E. Croscup, '80, is a member of a prominent publishing company of New York, whose publications are of one class only.—expensive editions of standard works which are sold by subscription to book-lovers.

W. M. McVicar, '72, the popular principal of Annapolis Academy, is the author of a short but admirable history of Annapolis Royal.

C. H. Miller, '87, is a prominent physician in the Dorchester section of Boston city.

Miss Helena Blackadar, '94, at present a teacher in Wayland Seminary, Washington, D. C., has been appointed a member of the missionary staff in India, and will enter upon her work as soon as the necessary funds are secured.

C. O. Tupper, '83, who removed from Amherst to Brooklyn three years ago, is establishing a good practice in medicine, in a fine part of the city.

W. D. Harris, '95, will soon have completed his post-graduate course at Baltimore.

J. S. Lockhart, '83, is a well-established physician, with a fine practice. He has one office on Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass., and another in Boston.

T. S. K. Freeman, '87, is chaplain on the U. S. battleship Indiana, which is now stationed at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands.

Rev. W. H. Warren, '71, is soon to visit England, where he will attend the Sunday School Convention which meets at London.

Rev. Geo. E. Tufts, '66, is at present pastor of the Baptist Church, Islesboro, Maine.

Miss Minnie Brown, '96, is in Westfield, Mass., where she has a position as book-keeper and cashier, in a wholesale clothing establishment.

Rev. C. H. Martell, '76, is still holding the position, which he has so satisfactorily filled for some years, as pastor of the Canard group of Churches.

O. T. Daniels, '81, and O. S. Miller, '87, are both enjoying merited success in the legal profession at Bridgetown, N. S.

Rev. M. P. Freeman, '62, as pastor of the Billtown Church, is rendering very efficient and acceptable service.

J. W. Wallace, '68, is practising law in Wolfville, N. S.

Exchanges

The *Varsity* has a well written article on Matthew Arnold, the Poet. The writer is very fair and just, giving Mr. Arnold no more praise than is his due.

"Abraham Bodding, Sonnambulist," is an interesting and amusing prize story in the *Kalamazoo Index*. This magazine is now one of the best that comes on our tables, its mechanical make-up and literary articles being in harmonious proportion.

We wish to congratulate the students of the Normal School at Fredericton, N. B., upon the success which they have achieved in their magazine, the *Normal Light*. Some of the articles have the school boy tinge but on the whole the editors are to be commended.

The "Utility of Philosophy" is a highly readable and instructive article in the *Owl*.

Miss Blanche Bishop, one of Acadia's talented graduates, contribute to the *McMaster Monthly*, an admirable little poem on "Winter Flowers." A comparative study of "Adonais and In Memoriam" should be read by all students of literature.

A writer in the *Argosy* has combined a large number of popular superstitions in an interesting article with that name.

The *Trinity University Review* contains another chapter from that amusing and highly mendacious tale, *The Cruise of the 'Undertaker's Joy.'*

Under the title "Our Debt to the the Egoist," W. Carman Roberts, gives the readers of the *University Monthly*, a well written and instructive essay.

NIGHT

Beyond earth's rim the spent day drifts and sinks,
Th' expectant lands lift their stilled faces up,
The last hours drip from Night's upturned cup
And new wine stains her fingers as she drinks.

—Robert McDougall in the *Presbyterian College Journal*.

The following Exchanges have been received: *Vox Vesleyana*, *Colby Echo*, *Manitoba College Journal*, *Owl*, *Niagara Index*, *McMaster Monthly*, *McGill Fortnightly*, *Presbyterian College Journal*, *University Monthly*, *Argosy*, *Normal Light*, *Kalamazoo Index*, *Shurtleff Review*, *Trinity Review*, *Theologue* and *Cornell Era*.

Notices

The *Educational Review* edited by Prof. G. U. Hay, M. A., '94, of St. John, N. B., is issuing as a supplement a small magazine entitled, *Canadian History Leaflets*. The object of this supplement is to add the romantic and readable side to the dry details now presented by the text-book. The writers contributing to the first of the series are well known in Canada, and if their services are continued the success of the *Leaflet* is assured.

We desire to tender our sincere congratulations to the editor of the *Aylesford Union*, for the commendable enterprise which he has shown in the editing and publication of that newsy little paper. The editor, Rev J. B. Morgan, B. A., is a writer of splendid ability and to his incessant work the success of the paper is due.

The following is a curious catalogue of Dickens' works :

"Oliver Twist" who had some very "Hard Times" in the "Battle of Life" and had been saved from the "Wreck of the Golden Mary" by "Our Mutual Friend," "Nicholas Nickleby," had just finished reading "A Tale of Two Cities" to "Martin Chuzzlewit," during which time "The Cricket on the Hearth" had been chirping right merrily, while "The Chimes" from the adjacent church were heard, when "Seven Poor Travellers" commenced singing a "Christmas Carol;" "Barnaby Rudge" then arrived from the "Old Curiosity Shop" with some "Pictures from Italy," and "Sketches by Boz" to show "Little Dorrit," who was busy with the "Pickwick Papers," when "David Copperfield" who had been taking "American Notes" entered and informed the company that the "Great Expectation" of "Dombey & Son" *re* "Mrs. Larriper's Legacy" had not been realized, and that he had seen "Boots at the Holly Tree Inn," taking "Somebody's Luggage" to "Mrs. Larriper's Lodgings" in a street that was "No Thoroughfare" opposite "Bleak House," when "The Haunted Man", who had just given one of "Dr. Marigold's Prescriptions" to an "Uncommetical Traveller," was brooding over "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

De Omnibus Rebus.

In a burst of eloquence Fen. the premier exclaimed; "Sir, in my long public career, I have never done anything to be ashamed of."

"You mean," corrected the Minister of Public Works, "that you have never done anything that *you* are ashamed of."

When order was restored in the Opposition benches, the leader of the Govt., as the tears streamed down his cheeks said;—"Like one of my illustrious predecessors I have fallen into a "nest of traitors."

A time honored court-room—The front parlor.

Prof.:—"Mr. — do you know the latest addition to the English language?"

Married Student:—"No sir, but doubtless my wife does as she always has the last word."

A few days ago a classical Soph, known among the ladies as the "white-headed boy," was asked the derivation of *opportunist*. He replied, "It comes from *ob* and *portus*, by the gate." The Dr.'s remarks about 'graphic and 'suggestive' may have caused him to think he was wrong. But, when necessary, book knowledge always gives way to experience; so the answer was allowed to pass unchallenged.

D-v-s:- "Now gentlemen, I will tell you something for a fact, although I can't say how much truth there is in it."

The following question in regard to the Spanish-American war has of late been giving the Seniors considerable difficulty.

"Will the fighting continue on Sundays or will active engagements cease on that day and the contending forces go to church?" Anyone who will answer this question satisfactorily will be tendered a hearty vote of thanks by the members of '98.

F-s-y says that after he popped the question he questioned the pop.

A Junior describing the going qualities of a certain horse said that he was even faster than a Freshman on his way to the dining-room. If this is true we will guarantee that the horse's equal is not to be found in Nova Scotia.

Prof:—"What planets were known to the ancients?"

Brilliant Junior:—"Jupiter, Mars, and I think the earth, although I am not quite certain."

Great events never come singly. About an hour after the "At Home" a short time ago, two occurrences as yet unexplained took place in the vicinity of the college.

A fallen *star* was seen to be resting for some time on the floor of the west corridor. Observers, however, soon became conscious of life in the object viewed, and noticed it begin to move slowly toward the ladies' dressing-room. There it entered and shortly afterward disappeared. It is believed to have been strongly attracted by a distant body: but by what body remains an open question. The *star* has since been confined with great difficulty, in the Academy Museum.

It was also observed, about the same time, that *hay* was undergoing some strange changes. It first appeared as _____, suddenly changed to red, and then entirely vanished. The world would be thankful for an explanation of these strange phenomena.

At the Sem. reception the duke of the senior class picked up a flower and sang pathetically, "Tis the last rose of *some her*."

We suppose it was the same gentleman who remarked that "The music of the tooster is not composed of crow-bars."

Certain residents of Chip Hall, are endeavouring to find out who among them can tell the biggest yarn.

At present the man from Moncton bids fair to distance all other competitors.

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