

# THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

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## THE Acadia Athenæum.

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### →\* The Sanctum. \*←

WE wish to inform our subscribers who are still in arrears that the Secretary-Treasurer will cheerfully receive and acknowledge all amounts due the ATHENÆUM whenever forwarded. If our friends wish to see our college paper compete successfully with journals of its class they must encourage and assist the managers by prompt payments. Our effort at journalism is a modest one, but it cannot be sustained without money. There are hundreds of dollars on our books, chiefly made up of small sums, which if collected would not only place us in an independent position, but enable us to still further improve our paper. Will our friends kindly make a note of these suggestions and settle their accounts before the close of the term? Money will be received any time up to the first of June.

R. J. BURDETTE, the celebrated American humorist, will deliver one of his popular lectures in Assembly Hall, on May the 6th. The subject of the lecture is one in which everybody should be deeply interested, namely, "Home." All who have had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Burdette on his former visits to Acadia will not, we feel sure, miss the opportunity of again listening to the "Silver tongued orator of Ardmore." It is unnecessary to speak here of his fame as a platform speaker, or his wonderful power over the most cultured audiences; no words of ours can add anything to a reputation already acknowledged by all competent authorities. His name is a household word both in the United States and Canada, and his writings have charmed and delighted thousands who never had the pleasure of hearing him talk.

THE Rhetorical Exhibition of the Sophomore Class was held in Assembly Hall on the afternoons of March 27th and April 10th. The exercises consisted in recitations and readings from standard authors, and were, in the most cases, delivered in an easy and natural style, and quite creditable to the young gentlemen who participated in them; more especially so when it is remembered that as yet elocution finds no place in the curriculum of the college. We understand that this important branch is to receive more attention in the future, and efforts will be made by the college authorities to secure the services of a competent instructor in this department for next year.

OF all the college students the Senior Class alone will remain on the Hill throughout the month of May. Although the regular class-work will probably terminate with the first of the month, there will still be much to occupy their time till the fourth of June. The graduating essays will necessarily demand a large share of

attention; and other matters connected with the approaching anniversary will give little time for amusement. The Seniors look upon the departure of their fellow-students with regret. To many perhaps it will be a final separation. The various aims and purposes of so large a body of young men will necessarily remove them to widely different scenes and incline them to different pursuits; hence the probability of the Class of '85 ever meeting all their fellow-students again is doubtful. But though old associations must be renounced, old friendships and recollections will still linger in their minds; the joyous laugh of a college chum or the melody of an old college song will float down the years and echo through the corridors of memory even after age may have whitened the locks, and care left its impress on the brow. The class of '85 take this opportunity to wish all the other classes a pleasant and prosperous college career, and to express the hope that, in the remaining years of their course, they will strive to maintain those friendly relations among themselves and that courteous and deferential attitude towards their instructors which has characterized the students during the year that is about to close.

**FIFTEEN** years ago there was established for a few months in the geographical heart of this Dominion an independent power, with Louis Riel as its President. To-day, some five hundred miles to the north-west of the scene of the former rebellion, the same evil genius bids defiance to constituted authority. That the half breeds in arms have not had cause for complaints few would perhaps be ready to affirm. But that they, in permitting the murderer of Thomas Scott to utilise their discontent for the purpose of gratifying a vain ambition, have taken the wrong course, all will agree. In response to the call to arms, troops from different provinces are hurrying to the front. Toronto University alone among Canadian Colleges has the honour of sending a company. One *Acadia* graduate, C. W. Bradshaw, '83, a law student, has enlisted for active service in a Winnipeg corps. Who can tell how great an influence this union of Canadians in an enterprise of life and death may have in breaking down sectional prejudices and upbuilding a truly national life? Canadians have in times past proved themselves men of true mettle; and, when duty calls, they will

ever respond in a manner which justifies a like expression with regard to this Canada of ours to that which Douglas used in *Henry IV* :

... there is not such a word  
Spoke of in Scotland as this term of fear.

**THE** term is rapidly drawing to a close. In a few days a large proportion of the students will be bidding farewell to the familiar scenes and pleasant associations of college life and hailing the return of the holidays with a joyous enthusiasm which only a college student can fully understand. While the old halls of Acadia, the well remembered walks, the companionship of kindred spirits have invested College Hill with a charm never to be forgotten; still they are all exchanged with hardly a sigh of regret for the more delightful and sacred associations of home life. While we would pity the student who has never known the subduing yet elevating influences of a well regulated home, we feel like despising the one who having such a home could permit baser attractions to exclude its memory from his heart or to divert his thoughts from the "old roof tree." There is sometimes a feeling among a certain class of students that it is unmanly and girlish to betray any attachment for their homes or any interest in those who live there. We believe that few students of this description can be found in Acadia. Indeed they are usually little credit to any institution, for they too often exhibit marked indication of mental or moral weakness. The student who is sincerely attached to his home with all that the word implies, possesses a safeguard against the vices of average social life and a check on the ruder tendencies of youthful nature the value of which he himself can never estimate. This feeling should be cultivated; it tends to true culture; it inspires the student with a manly sympathy and gentleness and fills him with an exalted ambition. When he leaves his home he should feel that he does not leave its influence behind, but that it will accompany him like a beneficent presence to cheer and strengthen him in a world where there is so much to dampen youthful ardour, and darken and embitter the fresh young spirit; hence when the hour comes for returning he will have the assurance that here at least he can close the door upon the busy rushing world and find rest

and relaxation within the charmed circle that gathers round the family hearth. Go then '86, '87 and '88, and our best wishes accompany you; we will follow you in due season; but our departure will be a final one, while you will return again after your vacation filled with a deeper enthusiasm for your work and a stronger attachment for your Alma Mater.

EMERSON, in his article on "Society and Solitude," tells us that "A man must be clothed with society, and society cannot do without cultivated men." The student who has given all his time and attention to the subjects prescribed in the college curriculum will not enter upon the duties of life with as fair promise of success as he who has the dual training of college and society. But little thought is needed to reveal the great advantage gained by the student who unites in a moderate degree the possible social with the desired mental training. Though perhaps but a boy when he enters college, he graduates and leaves his Alma Mater a man, with a destiny in his hands. From the fact that at various educational institutions there are always those who cannot, or more probably will not, avail themselves of such discipline as society might afford, we have the explanation of the existence and constant appearance of those who, to speak mildly, always appear *out of place* at any social gathering. The attainment of that ease and elegance of manner and address so desirable in all, and especially in young men whose various professional occupations will constantly bring them in contact with people of culture, is too often neglected at a period when they could appreciate and profit by such training. But the time will come, sooner or later, when they will learn by bitter experience what it means to lack an element so essential to success. Some few years ago it was difficult for our students to escape these results; but now, thanks to the skating rink, the temperance societies and social gatherings of various kinds, the student himself is to blame if he does not avail himself of these opportunities for social improvement. Considering the position which Acadia holds in the hearts of the Maritime Baptists, it would not be unreasonable to expect that the Wolfville Baptist Church would show a deep interest in the social as well as the moral welfare of the students

who attend the College and mingle with the congregation; but until quite recently the students have been impressed with the belief that such was not the case. They met for worship in the village church—but they were virtually strangers to the people who gathered there; they assembled around the communion table, but they were almost unknown to their fellow-worshippers. It is pleasant to know that the ladies of the Wolfville Church have been making praiseworthy efforts to remove this defect, and give the students of the three departments an opportunity to become acquainted with the members of the church and congregation. A step towards the attainment of this object was made a few weeks ago by holding a general sociable in the vestry of the Baptist Church, where the cordial handshaking and words of welcome made the students feel at home; while music, readings and pleasant conversation formed a no less agreeable part of the programme. To the students of the College, Seminary and Academy, the evening was a most enjoyable one, and will long be remembered as a welcome innovation on the custom of this part. We understand that another sociable is contemplated before the close of the term.

#### FRICITION IN COLLEGE LIFE.

THOSE who have forgotten the fact, as well as those who have never learned it, will find by consulting some standard authority, that Friction is the resistance produced by the rubbing of bodies against each other. Though known chiefly from its effects in machinery where its results can be accurately determined, it nevertheless exists, passively exerting an influence, wherever material bodies are in contact. The following thoughts have been suggested by that peculiarity of friction which causes it to be regarded, when superficially considered, only as a positive hindrance to motion, but which, on closer investigation, shows it to be a wise provision of nature—the one condition, in fact, which makes motion from rest possible. And hence, using the term to express the resistance which every student meets, it is proposed to indicate some of the points of contact and to show that its presence, though generally regarded harmful, is, in the truest sense, an important element in college discipline.

Some of the rough spots in connection with the student's private affairs may be noticed first. Space will only permit of a few examples being mentioned; but the list can be completed by the reflective mind at leisure. In starting out to assume the responsibilities of college life, the current and circumstances of his life are materially changed. A number of offices which were performed for him by indulgent hands at home, devolve of necessity, on himself, when he enters college. The conditions for mending clothes, for instance, are increased, while the source of repair is suddenly cut off. He must make his own fire and oftentimes his own bed. These menial duties are at first regarded as serious grievances; but they come at a later period, to be recognized as important factors in his education. There is an amount of good to be received in the sewing on of a button, or the making of a fire, which approaches in practical disciplinary value to that received in the solution of a problem in differentiation. These are only homely examples of difficulties constantly arising in college life which tend to the formation of habits of patience and self-reliance. The Freshman with difficulty confines his *darning* to the hole in his stocking, while the Senior will sit, needle in hand, for hours exhibiting an amount of patience and skill calculated alike to surprise his friends and excite the envy of a model housewife.

Another point where the benefits of friction appear is in the matter of pecuniary means. It not unfrequently happens that the want of money resists, to a greater or less extent, the student's progress. Often a break of one or two years in his course is necessitated by the low state of his finances, and consequently he is apt to deplore what is, in reality, a blessing in disguise. It is no discredit to a college or to its individual students that a large proportion of them pay their own way. On the contrary, with the list of great men who have risen from obscurity before him, who shall say that this very fact is not highly beneficial to both? to the student because struggling makes strong; to the college because it is largely what the students make it.

There is always more or less friction between the student and the Faculty. He has not entered college long before he discovers that this body have ideas which conflict with his own and seriously impede

his progress. He petitions for certain privileges, but the prayer is not granted. He remonstrates, but they remain firm. With an air of injured innocence he lays the matter before his parents who, knowing the benefit of such training, chuckle at the prospect of reform. Friction at this point has been known to prevail to such an extent as to stop for a time the whole college machinery; but such exigencies almost invariably prove beneficial to the students concerned. But, perhaps, contact with the different members of the Faculty in their individual capacity of teacher, though of a milder type, does most in the way of polish. For four years this rubbing process goes on; and it would indeed be difficult to estimate the amount of good accruing to the Student from such a period of contact with a number of men of culture as each, in his own peculiar manner, seeks to do his part in polishing the article before sending it out as a sample of the work done in the college. The hard lesson which necessitates the burning of the midnight oil, the argument in which he is usually defeated, the words of advice and reproof kindly and firmly given, and the various ways in which his deficiencies are pointed out, all appear disadvantageous to the Student, but they have a large place in reducing his asperities to floating proportions.

The text-books tell us that friction is greatest amongst homogeneous bodies. The analogy holds respecting friction in college life; for it is among fellow-students that it prevails most extensively, and where its benefits are most clearly seen. The graduate is indebted to his associates for no small amount of his polish. Students appear to take it for granted that they have a license to laugh at one another's mistakes, to criticise any peculiarity in dress, manner, or utterance, and even to regulate the frequency of calls. By far the most prominent bump, which all feel bound to lend a hand in diminishing, is that of conceit. The average Freshman is full of it. He is proud of his distinction as a student, and wears the college uniform on all occasions. But his love of show, in this regard, gradually subsides, so much so, that if a student is seen in cap and gown twenty rods from the college building it is safe to infer that he is a Freshman. He is proud of his oratorical powers, but he soon finds that the tone in exhortation and prayer, which he has, most likely, borrowed from

some model divine, and which has gone far towards convincing his friends that he has talents for the ministry, provokes a smile among his classmates. He is proud of his knowledge, and is not backward in displaying it whenever occasion offers. Towards the close of the first year he begins to entertain doubts about his infallibility and a shadow of respect for the opinions of others. When the second year is completed he will deign to ask advice from his teachers; and before he has finished his course "the old man" is eliminated from his vocabulary and his father is consulted concerning the most trivial matters. From the existence and nature in the raw material of this and other excrescences too numerous to mention, may be inferred both the manner in which friction operates and the benefits derived. He is, in fact, in many instances, what is popularly known as a "fast young man," that is, in scientific phraseology, his velocity is too great. And "the boys," having learned that friction acts as a constant force in retarding motion, manage to bring themselves in contact with him in a manner that varies as the conditions. Just how they do it, perhaps, ought not, in justice to future victims be stated; as experimental knowledge in this particular instance is decidedly preferable, and besides, a too intimate acquaintance with the "way it is done" may itself seem the result of experience. Sometimes gentle means have the desired effect; but these failing, recourse is had, without compunction, to those more effectual. Oftentimes a midnight visit to the pump, or a practical illustration of the force of gravity as seen in the free fall of a *body* projected into space by the elasticity of a blanket, is necessary before the object is attained. But whatever the means employed and by whomsoever the work is accomplished it ought to be said that no ill feelings are permanently entertained by the objects of these polishing proceedings. And though, for obvious reasons, public reference is seldom made to them there is no doubt but that feeling of gratitude possess the breast of many a reader as he thinks of Friction in connection with his own college life.

"THE best school of journalism in the world," said Charles F. Shewing, "is the editorial board of a college paper."—"The *College Journal* is the pulse by means of which the Faculty can determine the condition of the Student; and it must be supported or it cannot beat."—*Ex.*

## UNIVERSITY FEDERATION IN ONTARIO.

THE question as to the best and most equitable adjustment of university interests in Ontario is one of no little difficulty, and has, for many years, occasioned much debate. Toronto University (which is merely an examining board) with its affiliated teaching body (University College) has long formed a very strong provincial institution. But, as each year has brought its increased demands, University College has been continually clamouring for additional State aid, and for the consolidation of all the Universities of Ontario with Toronto University, under conditions which involved the absorption of the former institutions by the latter. To this demand the denominational universities of the Province have objected, "on the common-sense ground that one teaching body in arts can not do all the work of higher education in Ontario, and that what the country needs is not simply the improvement of one college, but a comprehensive measure, dealing with the necessities of the case, and recognizing the work done by other fairly equipped Colleges." So the idea of *consolidation*, in the sense of absorption, has been abandoned, and the new *Federation Scheme* has been brought forward. By this scheme, it is proposed to form a confederation of colleges to carry on, in *Toronto*, the work to be embraced in the Arts curriculum of the Provincial University. We give here a few of its provisions:

"Queens University, Victoria University, Trinity University, Knox College, St. Michael's College, Wycliffe College, and Toronto Baptist College, have the right to enter into the proposed confederation, provided that each institution shall, so long as it remains in the confederation, keep in abeyance any powers it may have of conferring degrees other than degrees in divinity—such powers to remain intact though not exercised.

"University College shall afford to all students who desire to avail themselves thereof, instruction in the following subjects in the curriculum of the Provincial University, viz.: Latin, Greek, Ancient History, French, German, English, Oriental Languages, and Moral Philosophy.

"There shall be established another teaching faculty in connection with the Provincial University, to be called the University Professoriate, which shall afford to all students of the Provincial University who desire to avail themselves thereof, faculties for obtaining adequate instruction in the following subjects:

—Pure Mathematics, Physics, Astronomy, Geology, Mineralogy, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Physiology, Ethnology, History, Logic and Metaphysics, History of Philosophy, Italian and Spanish, Political Economy and Civil Polity, Jurisprudence, Constitutional Law, Engineering, and such other sciences, arts, and branches of knowledge as the Senate of the Provincial University may from time to time determine.

"The same person shall be President of University College and Chairman of the Faculty of the University Professoriate. University College and the Faculty of the University Professoriate shall be complementary the one to the other, and shall provide adequate instruction in all subjects prescribed in the curriculum of the Provincial University. By the proper governing bodies, subjects may, at any future time, be transferred from University College to the University Professoriate, or *vice versa*. Fees will be charged by University College: the university professional lectures will be free of charge to all matriculants who are members of a confederating college.

"Attendance on instruction provided in any of the confederating colleges, including University College, shall be accorded equal value as a condition of proceeding to any degree with attendance on the work of the University Professoriate.

"The curriculum in arts of the Provincial University shall include the subjects of Biblical Greek, Biblical Literature, Christian Ethics, Apologetics, and Church History; but provision shall be made by a system of options to prevent such subjects being made compulsory upon any candidate for a degree."

It will be seen that in the above scheme, there are no provisions which absolutely debar any confederating college from establishing whatever chairs it may deem best. Yet, if the college should carry out the spirit of the scheme, they would not provide instruction in any branches handled by the University Professoriate, but would confine their attention to the subjects which are placed in University College and to the electives mentioned in the last paragraph above: for, as the scheme now stands, it is evident that a confederating college which provides instruction in any of the subjects assigned to the Professoriate must either furnish this instruction gratis or compete at a disadvantage with said Professoriate, since all the lectures of the latter are free. This fact seems of some moment, when we remember that both History and Metaphysics are assigned to the Professoriate, and appears as an unfortunate feature in connection with the division of the teaching staff of the Uni-

versity proper into two bodies. Moreover when we consider this division apart from the above objection, it is impossible to conclude that it has any scientific basis. It is inconvenient and unsystematic. Perhaps considerations such as these led the Board of Trustees of Toronto Baptist College, while approving of the scheme as a whole, to urge the following modifications.

1. "That there be no division of the work done by the State between the University and University College, but that the latter be merged into the former."

2. "That each confederating college be allowed to determine for itself the subject in the curriculum of the University on which it shall provide instruction, and that attendance upon such instructions and examinations passed shall be accorded equal value, as a condition of proceeding to an degree, with the same work performed by the University Professoriate, and that instruction in all subjects not thus provided for be given free to the students of any confederating college by the University Professoriate or by the Professoriate of University College, if that be continued."

Knox College and Wycliffe College have adopted the scheme unconditionally; but Trinity and Victoria Universities insist upon certain modifications, and Queen's will not adopt it at all. It is therefore evident that some little time must elapse, before the details of the coming confederation can be adjusted. There is, however, little doubt that the outcome of the whole matter will be the adoption of a modified scheme by all the colleges of Ontario save Queens, which will continue to maintain a separate existence. Yet the new Baptist Arts College, to be erected by Senator McMaster, when the denomination shall have fulfilled certain conditions, is not dependent for its existence upon the adoption either of the above scheme or of a similar one. It could sustain relations of its own with the Toronto University of the present.

Perhaps I should add that the proposed scheme provides that the Senate of the Provincial University be composed of the presidents of confederating colleges and of representatives from their governing bodies, with representatives from the Council of University College, from the University Professoriate, and from the graduates both of the confederating colleges and the present Provincial University.

## THE OLD PARLIAMENT.

## TO THE COMING WOMEN.

In ancient times we tied our queries  
And took our seats in Parliament,  
And fought as brave for honor bright  
As Knights of old in tournament.

Our countrie's wrongs, the people's weal  
Were then the reasons why we met,  
And drew our diamond-hilted steel—  
But times are changed, we do forget.

And shrink and shrivel like false men  
In glarish light of salaries;  
But ladies, ladies, come not down,  
Oh, keep you to the galleries.

Don't soil your trailing robes with dust,  
Let us fight on for salaries;  
We pray you, charming ladies bright,  
Oh, keep you to the galleries!

Sometimes in heat of party strife,  
We look up to the galleries,  
And in the light of truth and love  
Almost forget our salaries.

And strike out for a helpless truth  
That stands unclothed and shelterless,  
And careless of opposing lines,  
We stretch our hands to help and bless.

And then, the battle waged and won,  
A white hand from the galleries  
Has touched our own, and made us know  
A dearer thing than salaries.

Oh! ladies, ladies, keep your heights  
Above all hope of salaries,  
And leave us something dear and sweet,  
Above us in life's galleries.

IRENE ELDER MORTON.

## GLADSTONE.

ENGLAND, it is said by some American writers, is on the decline. Already the mighty empire on which the sun never sets is being gradually dismembered, and like the ancient kingdoms of Alexander and Cæsar, will soon cease to sway the destinies of nations. The contemplation of this sentiment may afford some satisfaction to those who look with jealous eye on England's increasing power, but taking cognizance of contradictory facts, we may reasonably presume that their predictions of approaching decay are based rather on their wishes than existing realities. So long as those principles of justice and freedom, which have wrought so gloriously for England in the past, maintain their hold on the minds and hearts of Britons, so long may we confidently

expect to see the "Banner of St. George" in the vanguard of civilization.

It is an universal truth that the power and influence of a nation are to be measured by the number of great men she produces; and applying this test to Britain at the present time, it is easy to draw the conclusion that instead of retrograding in national spirit and enterprise, she must in reality be advancing to grander acquisitions and a more universal prestige. How can a nation decline with such men as Gladstone and Beaconsfield to grace her legislative platforms, men who by their devotion to her interests and her laws, have made her name everywhere feared and respected? Without entering further into the enumeration of England's great men, let us examine for a short time the life and work of the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, who has for so many years exercised a potent influence on British politics. His father, John Gladstone, was a wealthy merchant of Liverpool, and a descendant of the Scotch "Gledstones" of Clydesdale; and his mother, Anne Robertson, a handsome and accomplished woman whose genealogy can be traced back to the royal houses of the Plantagenets and Bruces. Such then are the parents of the great statesman, who needs no ancestral fame to make his name memorable.

In his school days the young Gladstone did not exhibit any remarkable tendency to distinguish himself, and even incurred the grave displeasure of his tutor for his dislike to mathematics, a branch of study which he at that time particularly detested, but in which he afterward excelled. At the age of twenty he entered Oxford University, within whose classic and time honoured walls he formed that purpose of his life which in his own language is as follows: "A successful debüt, an offer from the minister, a secretaryship of state, and even the premiership itself are the objects along which a young visionary loves to look." That purpose once formed and impressed on his mind, he began to apply himself assiduously to its realization, and the lapse of a few years shows its grand accomplishment, when amid the plaudits of his countrymen, he stood on the highest pinnacle of his fame, the proud possessor of the greatest office that England can bestow.

The talents and accomplishments of Gladstone are complex and remarkable; he is a statesman, scholar, critic, essayist, philanthropist, practical administrator and orator. To study him in each of these capacities would require more time than is at our disposal, so we will be content with a brief glance at his statesmanship, learning and oratory. On his entry into Parliament, Gladstone was closely connected with the Tory party and a warm supporter of Protection. His progress towards Liberalism was slow, but after he became convinced that Protection was a fallacy and injurious to the best

interests of the country, he began to lose faith in other principles of his party, so that ere long his scepticism had gone so far that his scruples became a matter of conscience, and he could only range himself hereafter against "Consevatism."

Gladstone's change of policy during his political administration may be better observed by contrasting some of his early and more subsequent measures. At first he was by no means averse to slavery by years after when speaking of these views he says "I did not learn at Oxford what I have learned since, namely, to set a due value on the imperishable and inestimable principles of human liberty," this being an explanation of his conduct in supporting the measure for the emancipation of slaves.—Then again he was for a long time in favor of "Irish Church Establishment," but in 1849 he astonished the English and delighted the Irish by bringing in a bill to disendow and disestablish the "Irish Church." This bill was passed before public opinion in England had been fully excited, but the reaction soon came and the Liberal ministry fell. Unlike the majority of politicians, Gladstone could never see but two sides of a question,—the "right" and the "wrong," and when once convinced of the justice of his cause no other considerations, however plausible, might move him in its disposal. His attitude in regard to the opium traffic strongly exhibits his characteristic conscientiousness. Lord Macaulay in advocating the "Chinese War" had been describing the triumphs of the English flag in beautiful language, when Gladstone arose and with burning earnestness replied: "Under the auspices of the noble Lord that flag is now hoisted to protect an infamous contraband traffic; and if it is never hoisted except as it is now hoisted on the coast of China we should recoil from the sight with horror and should never again feel our hearts thrill, as they now thrill with emotion when it floats proudly and magnificently on the breeze."

As we trace the career of Gladstone through the many vicissitudes of political life, his progress seems to be towards those principles of universal equity and international fair dealing, in the pursuance of which he has been so greatly misunderstood. Such noble self-abnegation *pro bono publico* with such earnestness of purpose and disdain of intrigue are so seldom met in statesmen, that Gladstone's colleagues did not understand him, and accordingly looked on him with suspicion, attributing his "over-righteousness" to sinister motives.

Frequently he has been charged with indifference to the welfare of his country, and a wilful tardiness in taking active measures for the defense of her interests. It cannot be denied that at times in treating with foreign powers he has so far sunk national feelings in his zeal to do the right, as to lay himself open to the charge of inexpediency; and it is easy to see how in following the dictates of a policy so liberal

and embracing, he should seem to lose sight of individual interest in the "universal good." With a benevolence that includes the world in its manifestation, and a charity unrestricted and unconfined, he could never shut his eyes to the miseries of the race, nor suffer the helpless and weak to become the victims of tyrants, when he might wield the power of England in their behalf. A cry goes forth from the dungeons of Naples, where among untold horrors are imprisoned for political principles, a large number of Italy's statesmen. Gladstone hears and uses every means in his power for their release; they are soon set free, but the brilliant protest of Gladstone against Neapolitan atrocities had aroused the slumbering spirit of the nation, and soon Garibaldi at the head of his victorious army sounds forth the trumpet call of Italian liberty.

The policy of Gladstone has been all through his life averse to war, and although he has not carried this principle so far as his colleague, John Bright, yet his measures in regard to war with foreign powers have always been conducted with the greatest caution. He desires to see Britain the arbiter of nations, but not by the sword, the empress of the seas, but not by the terrifying influence of warlike squadrons, the civilizer of the world, and not the conquering tyrant. "England," he said loftily, "will stand shorn of a chief part of her glory and her pride if she shall be found to have separated herself through the policy she pursues abroad from the moral supports which the general and fixed convictions of mankind afford; if the day shall come in which she may continue to excite the wonder and fear of other nations, but in which she shall have no part in their affection and their regard." From these words we can form some idea of the picture he fair would paint of England's future when advancing along the highway of national glory she should come to possess by her conciliatory policy the highest place in the confidence of the world. Yet as strongly as he was influenced by these considerations, he was not blind to the fact that, in the present condition of society, war was sometimes a necessity, and whenever he saw the rights of Englishmen disregarded, their lives endangered by hostile nations, or those sacred principles of justice and freedom violated he would not shrink to touch the spring that launched the thunderbolt of England's vengeance. His later policy has been marked by a still further tendency to drop the traditions of his early education and to rise higher in "Liberalism." Although in carrying out these principles, some of his measures have been characterized by vacillation and indecision, yet on the whole his administration has worked out for the British people, especially the lower classes, a much better condition of affairs than previously existed, and long after he has passed away succeeding generations will breathe on his memory their grateful blessings.



As a scholar, Gladstone has few equals and hardly any superior. Add to a remarkable genius for acquiring and retaining knowledge, the magnificent education gained by a life time of studious application and perhaps some idea of his qualifications as a savant may be obtained. His mathematical attainments exhibit themselves in his brilliant management of those intricate statistical problems, in which he unravels the mysteries of financial details in a way that dazzles his opponents and delights his friends. But it is chiefly in classical literature that Gladstone has made a name. Possessing from his early years a decided preference for languages, especially the Greek and Latin, he has reached an eminence as a linguist to which few have attained. We can perhaps better realize the force of these words when we remember that during his visit to the Ionian Isles, at a public meeting there, he spoke to the Greeks for two hours in their native language, and then passing over to Italy performed the same feat for the Italians. The study of Homer had a peculiar fascination for him, and his researches and investigations into the ancient civilization of Greece have thrown a light on that subject which will greatly aid future inquiries. It is not alone as a scholar, however, that Gladstone claims our attention. The hearty earnestness, impassioned eloquence and dazzling rhetoric, which have characterized his speeches during a period of over forty years, have long since marked him as an orator whose fame as the years go by can suffer no eclipse. With a voice peculiarly clear, resonant and sweet, he never failed to be heard in the farthest corner of the great Hall, and his listeners could never forget the great combination of oratorical powers—in voice, manner, gesture, fluency, argument, style and passion which he displayed. No matter at what time of night, or how great the confusion in the House when Gladstone arose, every man bent forward to catch the words of the eloquent speaker, and truly he presented a striking picture standing there with his earnest eyes flashing and every nerve and muscle quivering with suppressed feeling, as he delivered himself of those telling thoughts which have so often modified or changed the current of parliamentary and popular opinion.

An old man now with wrinkled brow and tottering steps, he cannot much longer bear the burden and care of a responsible public office. His life work is nearly accomplished, his mission nearly fulfilled, but he has reared for himself a monument more lasting than the Egyptian Pyramids, and one which will stand uneffaced and unworn by the attrition of the ages. As he was ever reaching out into the future to draw its blessings to the present, so only will coming generations fully understand and appreciate the noble motives and far reaching benevolence of the "Grand Old Man" who in spirit lived among them.

C. D.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### McMASTER HALL NOTES.

*Messrs. Editors :*

From a region extending from the briny shores of Nova Scotia to the far-reaching prairies of Manitoba, are assembled at McMaster Hall about forty students, varying in age from say twenty to forty. All sizes, shades of complexion, temperments and habits of mind are represented among us.

There are those who, commencing in early days, have gone steadily on through common school, high school and university and are now using a long-drilled, well-ordered mental machine in grappling with the mighty questions of theology. There are those who for various reasons have foregone the pleasures and advantages of a university training and attacked theology with a classical academic training as a preparation. There are still others who when advanced in life have had their souls fired with a desire to preach the Gospel, and pause only for a year or two to study the English Bible under the best instructors and then devote all that remains of life to practical work.

There are among us a few young men who, consecrated by pious parents, seem to have made the ministry their first choice; but it is noticeable how large a proportion of those called to preach the Gospel have first chosen and entered upon some other profession. The shoe-bench and the saw-mill, the farm and the carriage-shop, the counting-house and the anvil, the pedagogue's ferule and the tape-dealer's yardstick, the whiplash and the pencil, the jackplane and the codline are all represented among us. Even in some of the rooms may be found well-polished tools resting at present, but ready to do service again in case of an emergency. The colleges represented are: Aberdeen, Scotland; Toronto University; Acadia; Woodstock, Ont.; Prairie College, Manitoba. We come from city and country, town and hamlet, from the rugged hillside and the smooth valley, from dense forest and open prairie, from the rock-bound coast of the Atlantic and from the far inland territory. And here we are a heterogeneous lot, thrown daily, almost hourly, into contact with one another; jostling together as we move from room to room, jostling our ideas together as we rush on in the race for knowledge and in our effort to reach truth, each fellow trying to thrust his pet notion to the front and nobody succeeding; each conscious that he is becoming keener day by day as he grinds against his fellows. It is a sorry task that is set our professors, to manufacture out of such varied and irregular material ministers of the Gospel. And a sorry time they have, punched and probed at all possible points with all manner of questions; trying to shape their instructions to fit at the same time all sorts of minds. The thought that just fits one mind strikes another cornerwise. The

idea that pleases the fancy of some young sky-scraper, disturbs the orthodoxy of some old conservative. The sentence that soothes some ruffled spirit acts upon another like the spark applied to dynamite, and off he goes. If theological professors need a long vacation in which to recruit their strength it is not a matter of surprise.

Dr. Castle, with Smith's text-book as an aid, explains, argues and otherwise directs his class through a heavy course in Systematic Theology. Dr. McVicar examines closely Theism and Anti-theism, the question of inspiration, miracles, etc. Didactics are always popular. Dr. Clarke continues, as only Dr. Clarke can do, to show up the beauties of New Testament Greek. He is in some respects one of the most destructive men I have ever met. I venture to say he has wrought the ruin of more sermons this winter than will be rebuilt in a long time. Sermons we thought fine, and which gave us great satisfaction in preaching, appear very ragged after being in his hands for a few minutes.

Joshua, Zachariah, Malachi, etc., in the hands of Dr. Welton are forced to yield to the light their gems of spiritual truth. Like beautiful fossils they lie embedded in their vernacular language, but sparkle like diamonds when the hard nuts of Hebrew etymology are cracked. The Apostolic Fathers, though dead, yet speak through Dr. Newman. The study of the Reformation period in the advanced class is of special interest and importance. Luther in Germany, Zwingli in Switzerland, Calvin in France, Knox in Scotland, and the struggles of the reforming party under less important leaders in England, cannot fail to interest the lover of romance and stimulate the sluggish powers of the most lethargic.

An intense interest in the present war prevails among the students. The papers are eagerly read from day to day and the whole situation carefully surveyed and pronounced upon. And our interest extends beyond mere sentiment and theory, a volunteer force has actually been organized and despatched into the enemies' country under command of Gen. Anderson. They report several fierce engagements with the Arabs, and we have already sent out reinforcements. The Arabs outnumbered our force six to one and yet, although several battles have been closely contested, we have not to report a single defeat. It may be necessary to explain that by Arabs I do not mean dwellers in Arabia, but "Street Arabs," about sixty of which are gathered every Sunday from one of the worst localities in the city, and instructed by a force from the Fyfe Missionary Society.

By the way, it may be interesting to know that the F. M. S. is planning to despatch another force of six to Manitoba for the coming vacation.

Yours truly,

ADAM'S ELDEST.

## COLLEGE WORLD.

THE leading jurist of Japan is a graduate of the University of Michigan.—*Ex.*

THE first prize for English composition in Yale College was lately taken by Mr. Van Phan Lee, a Chinese student.—*Ex.*

THE Columbian University at Washington has decided to admit women to the study of medicine.

OF college graduates in Congress, Virginia claims the largest number, Harvard ranks second, and Yale third.

THE first successful candidate for the degree of Doctor of Science at the University of London was a Hindoo gentleman; the second was Mrs. Sophia Bryant.—*Ex.*

THE Trans-Atlantic Students in Edinburgh have formed a society of over fifty members for mutual assistance in obtaining House news, and for the purpose of extending welcome greetings to new-comers.

MR. HORACE HOWARD FURNESS, of Philadelphia, the well-known Shakespearean scholar, has given to Vassar College the sum of one thousand dollars to establish two prizes for essays on some Shakespearean or other Elizabethan subject. The present senior class at Vassar numbers thirty.

THE State University of Texas has a permanent fund of over half a million dollars, and also two million acres of land. Its total resources are estimated to amount to five million dollars. It is a noticeable fact that no State in the Union surpasses Texas in the munificence with which it is caring for the interests of its Educational Institutions.

THE general tendency of Cornell University a few years ago seemed to be positively anti-religious, but for the past four or five years efforts have been successfully made to put the University squarely before the public on a christian, though unsectarian basis.

THE Presidency of Madras, like that of Bengal and Bombay, has its University. It is simply an examining board, conferring degrees and taking a general supervision of Educational work. There are twenty-seven second-grade, and thirteen first-grades Colleges affiliated with the University.

THE Scandinavian countries have four regular Universities, namely: Denmark one, at Copenhagen (founded 1479); Sweden two, at Upsala (1477) and Lund (1668); Norway one, at Christiania (1811). The laws of Denmark and Norway demand that every one who desires to enter the ministerial office must be a University graduate.

BALTIMORE, under the influence of Johns Hopkins University, is beginning to assume the atmosphere of a university town, and bids fair to shortly rival Boston as a centre of culture.

THE University of Nebraska reports for last year as follows: In College of Literature, Science and Arts (not including preparatory, etc.), sixty-three; in College of Medicine, fifty-two; and total in all departments, 282.

SINCE Vassar College was founded, Wellesley and Smith have been established, and now Bryn Manor stands with them. These four include all the colleges for ladies alone. Meanwhile over one hundred and fifty colleges for young men have been opened for young ladies. But perhaps the greatest success of those advocating higher female education has been obtained in connection with the two great English Universities. Both Oxford and Cambridge have made arrangements by which ladies can attend a large number of the lectures. In England, however, the ladies of the reform were careful to explain that they had nothing to say to the principle of mixed classes; that all they desired was that women should not be debarred from obtaining the best teaching that could be had. Italy has opened no less than seventeen of its universities to women, and Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark have followed suit.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY possesses a court which is termed the *Concursus Iniquitatus*. It preys upon the Freshmen year. For some time past a storm has been brewing between the Seniors and the Freshmen. Last week the conflict began when several freshmen refused to be courted for indiscretions. There was a short dispute and some blackened eyes resulted; on Tuesday the dispute reached larger proportions. The court constables appeared, to take several freshmen, but the class in a body resisted, fortified themselves in a class-room and barricaded the stairway with benches. The seniors swept up the stairs, tramped down the obstructions and a rough-and-tumble fight occurred, causing bloody faces, blackened eyes, dishevelled hair and torn garments. Several professors tried to calm the rising excitement, but their efforts were unavailing. Principal Grant finally appeared, fought his way through the seething crowd to the top of the stairs, and succeeded in quelling the disturbance. The freshman who was to have been courted escaped, but was chased a mile or so by the seniors, who persisted in their determination to make the freshman respect the laws of the college so far as the privileges were concerned. The latest developments show that one man was rendered insensible by a fall down the stairs, and others were badly disfigured. Five men from each section met the Principal to discuss the situation. The seniors declare their intention of showing the freshmen that they will not stand defiance.

## EXCHANGES.

THE *Argosy* is anxious for the appearance of the ATHENÆUM. We wish to inform our querulous contemporary that if the ATHENÆUM has not reached Mount Allison in due time the fault is not ours. The paper is mailed regularly between the 18th and the 20th of each month, and besides it does not "take as long to get out a paper at Acadia as it does at Mount Allison," that is if we are to judge from the fact that the *Argosy* never reaches us till nearly a month after the date of its publication. The March number, for instance, did not reach us till the 10th of April. The *Argosy* has likely been flattering itself that its recent assault on the ATHENÆUM occasioned the delay of which he complains, and that we have been ever since occupied in applying restoratives to our wounded and burying our dead instead of preparing copy for the press. If the *Argosy* ever gave way to such a delusion it has probably been undecieved before this. Our fighting editor does not expire at the discharge of pop-gun.

The *New Star* referring to one of our exchanges says: "Many of our older and more egotistical college journals would do well to take it as a model." Suggestions coming from a paper so well qualified to pronounce in such matters will doubtless be esteemed by the "more egotistical college journals" at their true value. It would be interesting to the public to know after what ideal standard of perfection the *Star* is modelled. Before attempting to institute comparisons between college papers the *Star* should pay a little more attention to its own appearance and literary character; and besides it should not indulge in generalities of this kind. If it has anything to say about "older and more egotistical college journals" it had better come out of its obscurity in a manly way and say it.

WE always believed that the Ex. man of the *Niagara Index* was in some measure responsible for his utterances and therefore deserved chastisement for his insufferable conceit and low buffoonery. This cue administered with a good deal of severity in a recent issue of the ATHENÆUM, but after reading the tirade of meaningless rant directed against us in the last *Index*, we are inclined to think that we have made a mistake. The unfortunate youth is more to be pitied than blamed, and the Preps. whom the *Index* informs us "went out to ensnare a fool," might have saved themselves the trouble, as a well developed specimen fills the editorial chair of their *Collegie paper*.

THE *Colby Echo* has once more condescended to visit our sanctum. We do not know in what way we have offended that the *Echo* should have treated us so coldly of late. However we are glad to welcome it once more. It is one of our best exchanges.

## LOCALS.

SPRING!

*Rubbers.*

H. LOVETTE, of the Senior Class has gone home ill. He has our warmest sympathies and sincerest wishes for a speedy recovery.

LOST in the mud from his bicycle as coming swiftly through the village he lifted his hat to some bright-eyed Sem.—*a senior's equilibrium.*

AT a recent sociable in the village, a certain festive Cad amused himself by firing cake around the room, and making himself ridiculous generally. The pump is waiting for a victim.

WANTED.—A young lady of agreeable manners and easy fortune for the *only* unengaged member of the Senior Class—a graduate of the Seminary preferred.

THE Ladies of the Seminary gave one of their popular re-unions on the evening of March the 28th. The reception room was found too small to accommodate the unusually large number of students that met on the occasion.

THE mock trial recently held in the Athenæum Society was quite creditable to all parties concerned. Even to the culprit who was acquitted contrary to expectation.

AT the skating tournament held in the Rink on the 17th ult., our boys came out first. J. T. Prescott taking the first prize—a silver cup—in the mile forward race, and first prize—a gold breast-pin—in the mile backward race; and Anderson first prize in the half-mile forward race. Prescott is now virtually the champion skater of the county.

ALL FOOLS DAY.—Mr. S——, walking briskly on the Railway track encountered a popular professor. Prof. (warningly), "Mr. S—— you had better not go any further on the track." Mr. S—— (unsuspectingly) "Why not prof.?" Prof. (solemnly) "There is a crow on the track." S—— smiled feebly and resumed his walk wishing the prof. and the crow at the antipodes.

ON the evening of the 10th inst., the Literary Society resolved itself into a mock parliament, with J. W. Tingley as Speaker. A very animated discussion took place over a resolution brought down by the government, condemning Protection as a political principle and especially its application to Nova Scotia. The principle speakers were:

<i>Gov.</i>	<i>Opposition.</i>
H. T. ROSS, (Leader)	H. S. FREEMAN, (Leader)
S. L. WALKER,	J. A. FORD.
W. B. HUTCHESON,	C. H. DAY,
F. BEALS,	G. R. WHITE,
A. S. MILLER,	E. COREX.
H. B. SMITH.	

THE matriculating class of H. C. Academy seem to enjoy life on the hill. On the 26th ult., they indulged in the luxury of a class supper. Though a spirit of solemnity prevailed owing to the unexpected leaving of one of their number,—Mr. C. A. Shaw, the sumptuousness of the repast, the maiden responses to the various toasts, and the excellent music provided by Mr. E. P. Fletcher cheered the hearts and stimulated the emotions of all; while each one declared that class *suppers* were a "grand institution."

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE SOPHS.

The other night when stars were bright  
And eyes were brighter far O,  
Reception time made hearts so light  
That nought our joy could mar O.

From Chipman Hall we started all  
In fours, and threes, and twos O,  
We reached the Sem. and at the door  
We cast our rubber shoes O.

Within we bade farewell to care  
And books and study hours O,  
And wandered round with happy air  
As if in Eden's bowers O.

"But pleasures are like poppies spread,"  
As soon we knew too well O,  
Some wicked boys with stealthy tread  
Had "played us all a sell" O.

\* \* \* \* \*

Said K— to P—, let's have a lark  
And drive away the blues O,  
All right, says P—, let's go at dark  
And scatter rubber shoes O.

At dark they came, on mischief bent,  
When all was joy within O,  
They snatched the shoes and quickly sent  
Them here and there like sin O.

THE Sophs. recently met around the festive board, in the room of Mr. J. W. Porter, and engaged in convivialities according to a programme provided by a select Committee of their "Class Society." Mr. E. R. Morse presided during the evening. The work of demolition ended, these seekers after knowledge turned their attention from physical to mental pleasures, and toasts and music were announced as being in order. The music came from the violin of a class mate, Mr. R. W. Ford. Toasts to "Our College," "Our Fellow-students," "Sister Colleges," &c., were proposed and heartily responded to. The testimony of an outsider, who was disturbed by the *mild* applause, is, that "the Sophs. must have said a great many good things, or appreciated a great many bad things."

Such gatherings tend to cement classes still more firmly together, and our friends of '87 have, as is evident, already reaped benefit in this way.