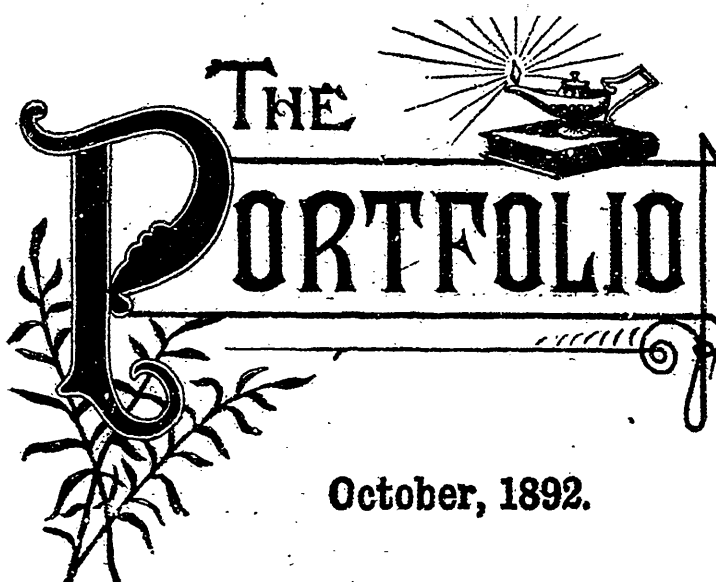


Mrs. T. C. Baker



October, 1892.

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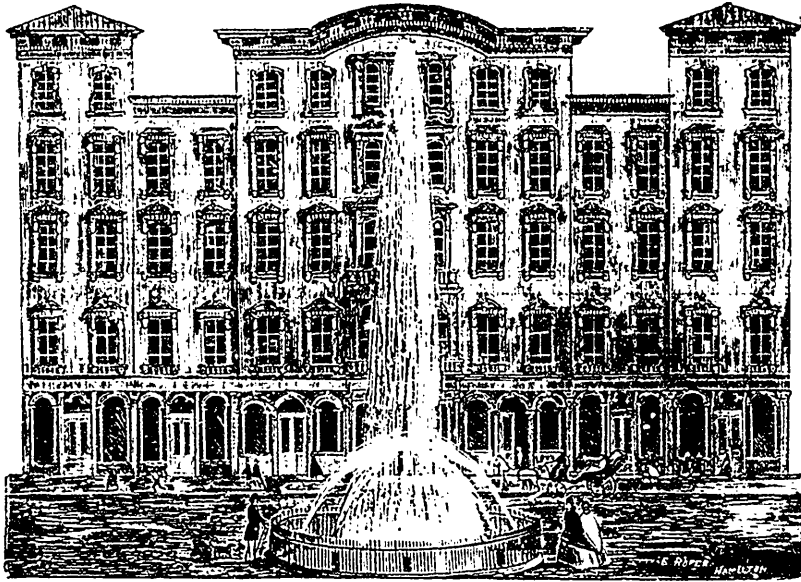
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THE PORTFOLIO

"VITA SINE LITERIS MORS EST."

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Notes.

The holidays with their attendant pleasures have come and gone; we have enjoyed them thoroughly, and with renewed vigor are now ready to assume the duties and responsibilities pertaining to our separate offices on the Portfolio staff. Our duties are new to us, therefore kind readers judge us leniently. If any glaring faults appear in the columns of our paper, tell us of them, and we will endeavor to profit by your kindly criticism. Surely with the illustrious example of our former companions, Class '02, ever before us, we cannot go far astray. Yet, only by practice comes perfection, so keeping this truth ever in mind, thus our first literary effort should be indulgently received by the Portfolio's many readers. Former students of our College give us a tangible expression of your kindly interest

in our success and welfare. Correspondence from you will indeed be highly valued. The Alumnae have in former years offered us a helping hand; we hope that this year will prove no exception, and that the columns of our paper may be enriched by bright and instructive notes from them.

Christopher Columbus.

More than four hundred years ago, a sailor, adventurous, studious and ambitious, dreamed of another world hidden behind the mists of the Atlantic, and when he told his dream he was ridiculed as a fanatic. This dreamer was Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America whose fame all nations are about to commemorate.

The birthplace of Columbus is uncertain. It is supposed he was born at or near Genoa. His father sent him to school at Pavia, where he studied geometry, geography, astronomy, astrology and navigation, leaving these schools at fourteen he sailed for several years on board trading vessels and ships of war. Having always a great fondness for geography and navigation, in the intervals between his expeditions he would draw, engrave and sell his nautical charts. After his marriage he continued making his maps and globes which were much sought after on account of their accuracy by Portuguese Mariners. The age in which Columbus lived delighted in geographical exploration, and was ever eager for information concerning hitherto unknown lands. Great interest was taken in Map construction and Chart-making. The Portuguese were the leaders in exploration. Their discoveries had

Note well Reading Matter at foot of Pages.

extended far and wide. The Spaniards also sent out their fleets, armies and expeditions from time to time in the hope of gaining some new land. While Columbus was making his globes his attention was often drawn to the immense empty space in the middle of the Atlantic. His calculations founded on Ptolemy and the Arabian geographers led him to suppose that the earth was a globe which it was possible to sail around.

The Portuguese were making incessant attempts to connect Asia with Europe by sea, Columbus thinking he could accomplish this by sailing westward across the Atlantic, applied to the Portuguese King, explained his plans and asked for means to carry them out. The King listened to him with interest, appointed a council to examine his plans. This council blinded by popular prejudice declared his plans fanatical.

Despairing of receiving help at the Portuguese Court he turned his steps towards Spain. After many disappointments he at last received a hearing at the Spanish Court, Ferdinand and Isabella listened attentively to him, a council of the wisest men in the land were appointed to examine him. These examiners looked upon him as an adventurer, they ridiculed him and declared his plans were merely visionary. After lingering around the Spanish Court for several years, Columbus was again admitted (in 1492) to the King. This time the King promised him help as soon as his war with the Moors was over. Disappointed so often in his hopes of receiving help at the Spanish Court, Columbus set out for France. But Queen Isabella who had believed in his plans almost from the first, finding he was gone, pleaded that he might be recalled offering to pledge her jewels if need be to furnish means for the voyage.

After having surmounted innumerable obstacles, Columbus set sail from the

little port of Palos, with three vessels on August 3rd, 1492, to sail across the unknown deep. The friends of the seamen bade them good-bye scarcely hoping ever to see them alive again. One of his vessels having been disabled he was forced to stop, much against his will at the Canaries to have it repaired.

Sailing for several weary weeks without sighting land, his men grew mutinous. They declared they would return to Europe. Columbus tried to restrain them promising that in three days if land was not visible he would yield to their wishes and return to Europe. Reluctantly they obeyed him.

In the meantime signs of land became more evident, some rushes recently torn up were seen near the vessel, a plank evidently hewn by an axe, a branch of hawthorn in blossom were seen floating past on the waters. On October 12th, 1492 their eyes first saw the New World, Columbus landed in state, took possession of the New World in the name of his Redeemer and of Ferdinand and Isabella. He supposed he had landed on an outpost of India and gave the people the name of Indians.

After exploring among the islands he set sail for Spain in January, 1493, and after a stormy voyage landed at Palos about the middle of March. Pressing forward to Barcelona, where the King and Queen were staying, he was royally received by them and shown unprecedented marks of favor, honors and titles were bestowed upon him. But some were jealous of the favors he received. At the court one day a guest sneeringly asked him whether he thought no one else would have discovered the New Hemisphere if he had not been born. Columbus did not answer the question directly, but took an egg between his fingers and addressing the whole company present asked them if they could make it stand upright; none could manage

this, he then crushed the egg at one end and placing it erect on the broken extremity showed his faultfinders that if there were no merit in a simple idea, yet none could find it out before some inventor showed others the example

Near the close of September, 1493, Columbus set out to assume the government of his new found regions. But the fame of Columbus had aroused the jealousy of some of the courtiers. While he was away they injured him in the favor of Ferdinand. A magistrate was sent invested with power to dispossess him of his authority, and send him back to Europe if the accusations against him were confirmed. He was brought back. Isabella alone received him kindly, at length on promising vaster discoveries than before, he was acquitted and allowed to set sail for the New Land; but hatred and envy again followed him. The misfortunes of the Island were imputed to his misgovernment. He was bound with chains and cast into prison for several months, then taken back to Spain in chains. The sight of this great hero in chains, aroused the pity and indignation of the Spanish people. He was at once released and honors conferred on him. Ever active and restless and hoping still to find a pathway to India across the Atlantic, Columbus set forth on another voyage, but after suffering many hardships and indignities, returned broken in health and almost penniless. But the fatal blow to his fortune was the death of the Queen Isabella. While she lived he could still hope for help and assistance. After the death of the Queen, Ferdinand allowed him to drag out his life in poverty, but as soon as he was dead the ingratitude of the King vanished. His body was given a royal funeral. His remains have been removed several times, they now rest on one of the Islands

of the New World. Monuments to his memory have been reared in various places, but the greatest one will ever be this vast American Continent.

Editorial.

We extend a cordial welcome to the new members of our faculty. To those who prompted by unselfish motives and a desire to impart the knowledge they have obtained to others, have undertaken to instruct us in the various branches of Literature, Science and Art, a knowledge of which will better enable us to enjoy this world's pleasures and to contend with its difficulties. With a corps of such competent teachers, we ought to make a success of our college lives, so that when the year is ended they will feel they have not labored in vain. To work, then, with a will, girls. Although we sincerely regret parting with our former teachers, we have already learned to love and respect those who have come among us for the first time.

The Alhambra.

The Alhambra, the ancient fortress and residence of the Moorish Monarchs, is situated on a hill overlooking Grenada, a City in the southern part of Spain. The name which means "the red" is derived from the color of the sun-dried bricks made of gravel and clay, of which the outer walls are built. This famous palace was built chiefly between 1248 and 1354. Different parts have been destroyed at various times, but in 1862 Queen Isabella of Spain gave orders for the whole to be restored to its original condition.

A strongly fortified wall, flanked by thirteen towers, enclosed an area of thirty-five acres, within which the palace is built. The chief entrance to the Alhambra is the Gate of Judgment; from this, a narrow passage leads to the Place of the Cisterns, so called from the tanks underneath filled with water from the Darro, a river which

flows near the hill. To the left of this is the ruined fortress of the Alhambra, and the Watch Tower where the Christian Flag was first raised. To the right are the ruins of a palace erected by Charles V. Behind these ruins is the Moorish palace; the exterior is very plain, according to the peculiar style of Moorish architecture, by which they endeavored to increase the splendor of the interior by contrast with the unadorned outer walls. But within, the palace stands unrivalled in the exquisite beauty of its decorations, for which blue, red and a golden yellow are the colors most used.

The present entrance is a small door, from which a corridor conducts to the Court of the Myrtles; in the centre of this court, there is a large pond from which some have called it the Court of the Pond.

The Hall of the Ambassadors, the largest in the Alhambra, was the grand reception room and the Throne of the Sultan was placed opposite the entrance. The centre of the dome is seventy-five feet high.

Going through the various rooms, one is astonished at the marvels which constantly meet the eye; the numerous fountains, miniature ponds and the beautifully sculptured marble pillars. But one of the most striking features of decoration is the use of various passages from the Koran, which are everywhere to be seen.

F. E. H.

A Trip on the Lakes.

Although during the past summer several descriptions of this very popular excursion on the Northern Lakes have been written on, we have decided at the risk of becoming but an echo of another's voice, to tell the readers of the "Port" what happened to us on our voyage. Our party consisted of four youthful damsels residing at Port C—and of course we were accompanied by a chaperon, who is a most valuable addition in these modern times. After a tiresome day's journey we boarded the steamer "Pacific"

at Collingwood, which set sail for Owen Sound and intermediate stations, at which destination we arrived about nine o'clock the same evening. After taking possession of our respective staterooms without waiting up till the boat left Owen Sound, about one o'clock a. m., we retired at a ridiculously unfashionable hour to be able to fully appreciate the expected sights of the morrow.

But while we were wrapped in the arms of Morpheus the waters became agitated and caused our steamer to rock in an unpleasant manner, so that in the morning nearly everybody had conscientious scruples in regard to eating their breakfast. Only two members of our party responded to the breakfast bell, the others preferring to wait awhile before satisfying the pangs of hunger. As the day wore on the waters became much calmer and everybody on board began to take a fresh interest in their surroundings. Our first trip on deck was accomplished after breakfast, when we four donned our fur capes and ventured forth, after walking leisurely around the boat taking it all in we scared up our courage to the point of making the first attempt at climbing for many a long year, by ascending the ladder to the hurricane deck, as our natural curiosity had to be satisfied before we could sit down and begin to enjoy ourselves.

On reaching our lofty destination, we saw another flight of those awful steps to be climbed before we could reach the highest goal; once there, we remained for quite a while thoroughly enjoying ourselves by watching the great variety of little Islands dotted here and there on the Bay.

It would be impossible as well as very tedious in the small space at our disposal to give a detailed account of all the stops that were made on our way to the Island City; nor is it necessary. The villages differ from each other principally in the formation of their wharves. At each there is the same Post Office, General Store and Barber Shop combined, and its one

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occupant who does all the work. the same houses, to say nothing of the pigs on the public thoroughfare or rooting in the grass in the front yard.

The men also seemed to be built on the same principal, you would see them at each place sitting like so many crows on the fence, smoking their pipes, gazing with open mouths at the unusual spectacle invading their peaceful domains; we musn't forget the village hotel made of boards that resemble strongly in color the shingles which adorn our old wood-sheds, with its proprietor looking like a modern Rip Van-Winckle in his shirt sleeves. This is all there is about these villages, and they differ only in the number of stray dogs.

The scenery especially on the journey up is very picturesque, Islands are very plentiful, they crop up on all sides, no matter which way you may turn you see nothing but Islands, in every imaginable shape, size and form. They are mostly covered with fir trees and the land would not raise much in the market garden line, as the soil consists largely of rocks. The mainland is the same, but what is most remarkable is the entire absence of human beings, mile after mile as our steamer ploughs its way along nothing is to be seen on either hand but a great barren waste of trees; no houses, no roads, not the slightest sign to show that the foot of a white man has ever found a resting place on its banks, save where we can sometimes see an old shanty most likely built by a raftsmen. This total solitude in our nineteenth century, makes our minds revert to the tales of Cooper and if Hawk-eye with his two Indian friends had suddenly appeared on one of the hills it would have seemed quite in harmony with the surroundings. In due time we arrived at the Sault, where our genial captain tells us if possible to ride down the rapids in a canoe manned by stalwart Indians, which plan we immediately proceeded to carry out; once more landed on terra firma, we walked up to the Locks and saw the immense gates swing open on their ponderous hinges, then the big C. P. R. Steamer steamed through and from there out into Lake Superior. Our boat then got up steam and headed her bow for our long looked for goal

Mackinoc Island, where we arrived about six o'clock Tuesday morning. After breakfasting we started out to explore the Island, the first thing we did, as everyone else did likewise, was to hire a carriage and take one of the most delightful drives anyone would want to take. As we whirled along under the overhanging green foliage, the sugar loaf rock, the Devil's Kitchen, the Arch Rock and the Lover's Leap were all duly explored and commented upon.

The Devil's Kitchen and the Arch Rock attracted our chief attention, as they were the most difficult of access, besides the most picturesque.

We have I'm afraid, made this epistle too long and as we don't want our readers to get a wrong impression of this delightful trip, we will merely mention one or two other points and then say farewell.

On coming to the end of our drive our party proceeded to inspect the old Fort, which is one of the chief points of interest on the Island, and no one should miss seeing it who is interested at all in martial affairs. Our next step was to go up to the "Grand Hotel" where we promenaded on the spacious verandah till our feet ached from weariness. Weary and footsore in body but elated in mind we once more seek the quiet shelter of our steamer the "Pacific" where we gladly sought our staterooms and took a much needed rest. As our homeward journey begins from now, it will be about time to bid "Adieu" to our readers of the "Port," hoping that we have not wearied you too much by this decidedly lengthy epistle.

VIATOR.

Question Drawer.

We respectfully invite the readers of the "Portfolio to contribute to this column.

Professor Huxley says:—"Life has but two legs to stand upon." What are they?

What opposite effects have shame and fear upon the heart beats?

Who was called the Wizard of Hinderhook? and why?

What was the Saltpeter War?

What is the significance of the following old rhyme of weather lore?

"When the elmen leaf is as big as a mouse's ear,
Then to sow barley never fear;
When the elmen leaf is as big as an ox's eye,
Then say I, 'Hie boy Hie.'"

By what means did the people on earth intend to communicate with the supposed inhabitants of the planet Mars?

From what is the word "news" derived?

The preceding questions will be answered in our next number.

Welcome to Class '96.

"Freshman!" What a small dissyllabic word, and yet what a vast amount of meaning it contains for you to which it applies; for you who for a short period leave behind you the pleasures and duties of home life, and enter for the first time these halls of learning; to you we extend a hearty welcome. Although in a college of this nature we do not subject you to any formal greeting as "haying" or "salting," every freshman passes through a trying ordeal indescribable to the casual observer. For instance, a new student is announced; at once the curiosity of every student is aroused, inquiries immediately pass from one to another as to her name, appearance, age, etc. So when this strange object of humanity—a freshman—makes her appearance in dining hall or class room, she is mentally devoured by all present, and remarks not always favorable are made concerning her. Before she has time to look about, questions of this des-

cription are hurled at her:—"How do you like the place?" "are you far from home;" "where do you intend rooming" and "hope you won't be home-sick." The last question frequently proves suggestive, and the poor freshman seeks the first opportunity to escape to the privacy of her own apartment where she may give vent to her restrained feelings.

But Freshmen, be consoled! Hundreds have passed through it all before you; you will survive. Be wise! you cannot expect to obtain an education without some sacrifice. Your mere isolation from home and dearest friends is an education in itself, it prepares you for the battle with the outside world, which must more or less come to all of us. You are now a part of the College; be loyal to it and your faculty; let its interests be yours; uphold it always, and protect its rights and principles; be humble; do not boast of your abilities, they will soon be made manifest. Golden honors may loom up before you in the future. "Aim high," but be careful to aim from a proper motive. Do your duty; acquire all the knowledge possible, and you will leave your Alma Mater satisfied with your life spent within its halls. Conform to the rules, they are not so severe but that you may obey them and yet find much pleasure in college life. Never offer as an excuse "I did not know that was the rule," that will not do, we have tried it and found it a complete failure. Instinct will tell you what is right.

Your four years of student life will quickly pass, and '96 will have come before you realize it. On your graduation day you will reflect on the four previous years, which will seem a comparatively short period in your life, and feelings of sadness will intermingle with those of joy. Joy, because you have accomplished your purpose, but sorrow that you must bid farewell to your Alma Mater and the pleasant associations connected with it.

"Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be
clever,
Do noble deeds, not dream them all day
long;
So make life, death and the vast forever
One grand, sweet song."

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Locals.

Position, Ladies!

Is Parry Sound a city.

Girls! is our astronomy distressing? well, I guess yes.

"Blow on Blow," are the words frequently heard through our halls this year.

We have the best society at our tables this year, some even being members of the "400."

We are glad to see that very necessary articles of furniture have been added to the Students' Parlor.

The term "dumb-bell" you would think would imply silence, but it seemed to have afforded us a musical treat one evening last week.

The little fun that the girls were having in the parlor the other evening, was soon put a stop to by hearing a heavy footstep in the hall.

During early morning and dewy eve, the girls can be seen frantically throwing their arms about, in the happy hope of some day becoming graceful.

Professor!—"Is the change for the maximum or for the minimum?"

Bright student!—"Neither, it is for the greatest."

We advise a certain young lady of our acquaintance not to forget, "to a certain extent" her "and ceteras," or "to a certain extent" she will find herself in difficulties.

"One teaspoonful powdered peppermint candy to be taken each day immediately after astronomy, to prevent escape of knowledge." The above is a remedy for forgetfulness, prescribed by one learned senior for another.

Exchanges.

Owing to the period of time since vacation, very few exchanges have arrived, but we hope that in time their number will increase. Among those received are the University News, Knox College Monthly and McMaster University Monthly.

We are pleased to see the cordial welcome given by the students of Syracuse University to their Freshmen.

The biographies given in the May number of McMaster University Monthly, are exceedingly instructive as well as pleasant to the reader.

We wonder by whom College Periodicals should be controlled, by the students or faculty? Some evidently think that the faculty should be at the head of the affair, allowing the students to take a secondary position; consequently those papers which have such an experienced editorial staff should rank foremost, and exception allowed to those controlled by amateurs. Our idea has always been that the students should have the almost entire control of their College Journal.

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PHILADELPHIA.

DESIRABLE INVESTMENTS

GUARANTEED 4 PER CENT. INSURANCE BONDS

AND ENDOWMENT POLICIES.

ISSUED BY

THE FEDERAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO'Y.

HAMILTON, - ONT.