

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE



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McGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 1st, 1882.

McGill University Gazette.

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Editorials.

The aims of the MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE are such as should win the approval of the class to which it appeals for support both literary and financial. No University can be considered complete unless there exists within it some medium whereby the earnest thoughts of fellow-workers can be freely interchanged—subject to no restrictions save those excluding matter likely to produce unkindly sentiment. While, therefore, the MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE would discountenance any attack on a principle through a man, or any attack on an established order of things through people personally obnoxious to the impugner, it has at heart all matters touching true reform, and it will lend itself to the expression of frank, yet friendly criticism showing honesty of motive. There is only one topic on which its pages must be silent—speculation regarding religious beliefs. The founder of McGill College determined that its work should be secular, not sectarian, since a liberal education is of itself, if it be true, a powerful stimulus towards right-doing; and that the teaching of subjects peculiarly sacred and personal should justly be essayed by those whose thought is mature and whose definiteness of creed is in sympathy with all the youthful impulse they direct.

Such a conviction is, for obvious reasons, altogether desirable in regard to a College Journal.

The MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE desires the hearty interest of both Graduates and Undergraduates. It will look to them for suitable material and will endeavour to meet the varied wishes of its subscribers by variety of news. The ardour of the College poet need no longer be repressed, and the anxiety of the College jester to see his crowning efforts in print can now be satisfied. In the GAZETTE the athlete may point to the record of his prowess, the would-be barrister to an early venture in the world of letters, the student in Arts to his pretty literary fancies, and the student in Medicine to that diversity of talent for which he is everywhere famous. It only remains for McGill College poets, jesters, athletes, barristers in *future*, and the general body of students in Arts, Applied Science, Medicine, and Law, to buy the MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

College Journals are universally supposed to consist of little else than syllabus and whipped cream, but the Editors, while not forgetting that essential part of the monthly feast they hope to offer, desire more solid and satisfying food, especially from the senior men and from old graduates. The MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE ought to reflect all sides of University life, and, in so far as it fails to recognise the existence of a little high thinking and low living, misses a vital purpose. The growing energy of the College, which has been strikingly manifested of late, should take the GAZETTE into its keeping. The Editors are confident it will do so, and they ask those who are displaying that energy to bear in mind, as they read this journal, the words with which John Lyly pretaced *Euphues and his England*—COMMENT IT, OR AMEND IT.

On the 4th and 5th of October the Medical Faculty celebrated the opening of the 50th session.

The Introductory Lecture was delivered in the Redpath Museum by the newly-appointed Dean, Dr. Howard, who dealt first with the early history of the Medical School, and then with the life and labours of the late Dr. G. W. Campbell. After the lecture, a Conversation was held in the Museum, at which about 800 people were present.

On the next evening the Faculty entertained the Graduates to a banquet at the Windsor. Over 800 invitations were issued to the medical graduates, the governors, and representatives of other Universities. About 200 sat down, chiefly medical men—old graduates—many of whom had come from distant parts to honour their *Alma Mater*. Among representatives of other schools were Dr. Chadwick of Harvard, President Buckingham of Vermont University, Dr. Coverton of Trinity Medical School (Toronto), Dr. Rottot of Laval (Montreal), Dr. D'Orsonnens of Victoria, and Dr. F. W. Campbell of Bishop's. The chair was occupied by Dr. Howard, and on his right was Dr. Robitaille, the Lieutenant-Governor, an *alumnus* of the University.

The *Menu* was most tastefully arranged with appropriate mottoes, chiefly

Shakespearean. At the dinner the Dean announced the pleasing fact that a friend had offered \$50,000 for the general purposes of the Faculty, if by the first of August next a similar amount was raised as a "Campbell Memorial Fund."

From a small and tastefully-arranged pamphlet which was distributed at the dinner, containing a brief notice of the Founders of the School and a list of the teachers and graduates, we extract the following facts of interest: "The first session of which there is any record is that of 1824-25, at which twenty-five students attended. The Medical Institution continued for five sessions, and in 1829 became the Medical Faculty of McGill College, thereby preserving for educational purposes the bequest of the Hon. James McGill.

"In 1823 an attempt was made to organise McGill College, and five Professors were appointed—one, Dr. Fargues, to the chair of Medicine. They never entered upon their duties.

"Up to 1853 there was only one Professorship in the Medical Faculty. At this date the various Lecturers were made Professors.

"The lectures were suspended during the political troubles of the rebellion; there were no sessions in '36-'37, '37-'38 and '38-'39. It is owing to this gap that the present is only the 50th session, though the Faculty was organized in 1829. In reality, this is the 55th session of the School, which is the direct continuation of the Medical Institution, and the 58th year since its foundation in 1824.

"The lectures of the Medical Institution were given at No. 26, St. James Street; the School afterwards moved to St. George Street; from 1845 to 1852 the lectures were delivered in the College building, Sherbrooke Street; from 1852 to 1872 in the Faculty building, Côte Street; and in 1872, the present building was erected by the Governors in the University Grounds.

"There are 917 Graduates in Medicine of the University, of whom 192 are dead. Of those whose addresses are known, there are in Ontario, 237; Quebec, 207; United States, 139; Great Britain, 34; Manitoba, 25; New Brunswick, 9; Prince Edward Island, 8; Nova Scotia, 6; Newfoundland, 4; British Columbia, 4; India, 2; New Zealand, 3; West Indies, 6; Sandwich Islands, 1."

Dr. Howard's address and a report of the speeches at the dinner are in the press and will, we hear, be ready for distribution in a few days.

The Faculty of Applied Science has of late been labouring somewhat under a disadvantage in not having sufficient accommodation for the convenience of her Undergraduates. The difficulty has in part been overcome by the removal of all the specimens formerly occupying two apartments in the main building, to the Redpath Museum. One of these apartments is now occupied as a receptacle for the various instruments used in Surveying; the other as a class-room, and one of the drawing apartments. Twenty-two new students have been enrolled this term, several of whom matriculated into the second year.

All the students of the second and third years, under the direction of Professor McLeod, have been engaged in locating a carriage-road connecting two points on the Mountain road, about half a mile apart. Their field work is now almost completed for the season.

The Captain and Secretary of the College Foot-Ball team were chosen from this Faculty, and they, with all the members of the team, have played exceedingly well in the matches which thus far have taken place.

In the Annual sports which recently took place, Science came nobly to the front, and carried off a large number of the prizes awarded for the various feats. The Championship of the University, high jump, 100 yards dash, putting heavy weight, mile race, in fact, in all the feats where science in the art was required, Science was victorious, and obtained about one half the total number of prizes.

The best of feeling prevails now between the members of this Faculty and the Faculty of Arts, which has not always been the case. It is sincerely hoped by all, that in the future, harmony may prevail in those matters in which both Faculties are concerned, associated as they are in the same building. The worst feature is an occasional grand push on the stairway between the two, which produces a rapid oscillation of the molecules of the surrounding atmosphere. Sounds varying in pitch are consequently produced, which are wafted to the ears of the Professors in that vicinity.

We give a short reference in another column to the lecture delivered to the Undergraduates Literary Society by Prof. J. Clarke Murray on Friday, 20th October, a fuller account of which appeared in the daily papers. We thoroughly endorse the remarks which the learned doctor made on that occasion, and only hope that they will be acted upon by the students. It is our lot to be acquainted with many students of the cramming and grinding class, who seem to think that there is no aim in life but to obtain a certain number of marks in some examination, and who accordingly grudge to give one evening in the week to the Literary Society. These gentlemen should recollect that examinations are merely a means towards an end and not an end in themselves. But the Graduates have not even this excuse, and yet their Debating Society is miserably attended when we consider the number who reside in the city and who could but won't attend.

It was with pain that we noticed on a certain late occasion on which the "gods" of the Academy were occupied by the students that there was a great lack of musical talent, or rather we should say, a lack of cultivation of musical talent among those present. It was truly lamentable to see the unsuccessful attempts which were made to get some one to start the familiar old College songs. Same effort we think ought to be made this winter to establish a Glee Club, which should include the students in the four faculties. At present Law and Medicine are ahead in this respect, while the other two faculties are increasingly deficient. Speaking of the "gods," we very much regret the manner in which one of the city evening papers reported an occurrence which took place on the occasion referred to above. It unfortunately happened on that night that one of the students was arrested for throwing bombs at the orchestra, but was immediately released on bail. When the case came before the Recorder about a week afterwards, it appeared that there was no evidence to show that the accused had thrown the crackers at all. But with this we have nothing to do. If he did throw them, we advise him to refrain from such conduct in the future as dangerous and undesirable. But what we do strongly object to is that a paper which refuses even to insert advertisements for the theatres should go out of its way to give publicity in a sensational report to an occurrence of such slight importance. A separate paragraph, in the most conspicuous part of the paper, was taken up with a highly coloured account of how forty or fifty students went to the Recorder's Court and cheered lustily when their fellow-student was acquitted, and how the Magistrate ordered the arrest of the ringleaders, which proved impossible, and how he threatened to make it hot for the next student of McGill who came within his clutches. This narrative, as we remarked before was highly coloured by the heated imagination of a reporter. We cannot see any harm in a number of students taking an interest in one of their number who happens to be in a little difficulty. Such conduct is decidedly commendable. And as to the cheering it has been flatly denied that any took place. In future we would ask this paper to do away with its scruples and report properly what takes place in the theatres and police courts.

Science sustained a great and irreparable loss by the death of Professor Plantamour, on September 7th, at Geneva. He was born in the same city in 1815, and received his early education in the old College, founded by Calvin, afterwards spending some years in the school of Hofroy. In 1833 he entered the Geneva Academy, where he became one of Alfred Gauthier's most promising pupils. By the latter's advice he resolved to make the study of astronomy the work of his life. He studied also at Paris under Arago, at Königsberg under Bessel, and at Berlin under Encke. His most famous work, published in 1880, contained the results of ten years' observations of the fixed stars, and it won him great consideration among the few who were competent to judge of its merits. He was in the very first rank of living meteorologists, and he was equally eminent in the domain of geodesy. Both a modern linguist and a savant, he was in regular communication with some of the most eminent scientific men of the day, with most of whom he could correspond in their own language. A man of fortune who might, had he so chosen, have spent his life in social enjoyment and lettered ease, he devoted himself from his

youth upwards to the pursuit of science and the good of his kind. The only recompense he looked for were the esteem of his countrymen and the satisfaction that search for truth never fails to confer.

THERE will be found in another place a notice of an auction which will take place in the Reading Room on the 11th November. We hope that a large number of students and others will attend, as the Reading Room is an institution which deserves our cordial support.

NOTICE.

THE MCGILL COLLEGE GAZETTE offers a prize of ten dollars to the writer of the best English poem contributed to the January issue. The competitors must be graduates or undergraduates of McGill College; and each is requested to place a motto on his contribution, and the same motto on the outside of a sealed envelope containing his name. A second prize of ten dollars is offered to the writer of the best story, whether in prose or verse—the length not to exceed three pages of the journal—contributed to the March issue. The same regulation in regard to a motto will be enforced.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

In this age of true progress, when the dominion of reason is being extended even to the last strongholds of ignorance, and the influence of mind is permeating the densest abodes of vicious superstition, it is but natural that a truer estimate of men and things should begin to prevail. We are fortunate, indeed, to be able to congratulate ourselves on the fact that the standard of intelligence is being more and more applied in our day as a gauge of the rank which men should properly occupy among one another, and although we are in constant danger, especially on this side of the Atlantic, of falling into the worship of an oligarchy more worthless than many aristocracies, yet on the whole and in comparison with former ages we cannot complain. Any community where the worth of the gentleman and scholar is recognized must necessarily prosper thereby, and it is to the interest of all that such a recognition should take place. So especially it is to the interest of any country that the government and administration should be carried on by men of this high stamp, and it is emphatically the duty of those into whose hands the power is entrusted by the people, to take measures that the best men should obtain employment in the service of the commonwealth. This is no less the case in the instance of a young country than in that of older states. But then the question arises in what way the best men are to be selected. Now as the qualification consists in the amount of intelligence possessed, provided always that the physical and moral constitution be good, it is evident that the only method of discrimination consists in some kind of examination carried out on such a basis as to afford as good a test as possible. This is in truth all that can be expected. No perfect test can ever be instituted, so that we must needs adopt the best possible though it be not perfect. Strange then and even paradoxical it seems for a chancellor of one of our numerous Canadian universities to attack in no dignified terms, at what purported to be an educational meeting, the system of competitive examinations such as exists at the present day in the United Kingdom. The problem seems a simple one. What is to be the standard by which we are to judge of the fitness of young men to receive government employment, intelligence, morality, physical power, or political favour? The last of these is evidently preferred by the venerable chancellor, for he attacks the system which adopts the other three. If so I should merely point him to the Province of Quebec, an example which needs no great amplification to display the rottenness even to putrefaction of its methods of preferment. The least said about the examinations carried on outside of the Universities and Schools the better, when we remember that one of the most important examining bodies in the Province once rejected in mathematics a gentleman who is now actually a lecturer in that subject in McGill. On the other hand the "Chinese principle" as it was inaccurately called, takes account principally of the amount of scholarship but also and in no small degree of the moral and physical condition as well. Wherein, then, lies the objection to this *method of admittance* to the public service? Because it encourages bookworms! Now such an objection clearly displays ignorance on the part of the college functionary who made it. In the first place the thing wanted is to select educated men, and although in most

cases a good physical condition is also requisite, yet the most important point is first of all to get men of sufficient intelligence, the only test of which is some kind of examination. But it is evident that the only kind of examination suited for the proper classification of candidates is a competitive one. It is not true, however, that the moral and physical conditions are altogether forgotten in this method of selection. Certificates from doctors, clergymen, and others are always required before anyone can become a candidate and the regulations on this head could be increased in stringency to any desired degree. Indeed, if the gentleman who made the objection were at all conversant with the working out of the system he would know that in general those who obtain the best places in such examinations are among the best athletes and sportsmen. It does not follow that because a man is a scholar he must also be a bookworm. Injustice there certainly is very often, if not always, at competitive examinations, but then perfection cannot be reached and we must be content with that which offers the maximum of advantages. In examinations of the kind referred to, from nervousness or other causes it will happen that some will be rejected who are in reality superior to others who have beaten them. But the injustice in such a case is individual, nor does any sensible loss accrue to the employers. It is certain that at least 85 per cent of the best men pass, while the difference between the remaining fifteen and those who ought to have their place is quite insignificant. If then sufficient trouble be taken in the carrying out of the scheme, physical capability can to a sufficient extent be ensured as well as good moral character, while the main requisite will be obtained, provided only the examinations be carried on in an upright manner. This latter however would seem to be the most difficult point to attain in a country where political corruption reigns supreme. And yet if sound public opinion asserts itself the present rotten methods of preferment must give way. There are only two things to choose between, a system of competitive examinations and of political favour. The gentleman to whom I referred before speaks of a broader principle but with eminent tact he refrains from mentioning what the principle is. It is to be feared that in its enunciation it would prove to have perhaps a great deal of breadth but very little principle. If we are mistaken we sincerely wish the projector would dispel our illusions by unfolding his ideal plans, but if he be unable to do so we ask him to desist in the future from abusing the only remedy which we at present possess for a scandalous system of jobbery which in its immorality does more to lower the character of a people than many a vice denounced by public censors.

Contributions.

(We are not responsible for any opinions expressed in this column.—Ed.)

"JOHN INGLESANT" AND "DEMOCRACY."

My purpose in the following note is to call attention to the curious parallelism of thought which, despite much dissimilarity, marks two novels that have lately attracted an unusual share of attention on both sides of the Atlantic. At first sight, there should seem to be little in common between them. "John Inglesant" is a serious work, strikingly devoid of all humorous elements, and concerned almost exclusively with different aspects of religious questions in the seventeenth century. "Democracy" sparkles with wit and humor; it has literally not a single dull page from cover to cover, being a lively satire upon the working of Democracy at Washington. Both, however, are novels with a purpose; both have a vital interest for all who think about the religious and political problems of the day. A similar curiosity takes John Inglesant to Rome and Mrs. Lee to Washington, "the feeling of a passenger on an ocean steamer, whose mind will not give him rest until he has been in the engine-room and talked with the engineer. She wanted to see with her own eyes the action of primary forces; to touch with her own hand the massive machinery of society; to measure with her own mind the capacity of the motive power. She was bent upon getting to the heart of the great American mystery of democracy and government." The result is similar in either case. John Inglesant takes an active part in a papal election, and is gratified with an inside view of all the littleness, the intrigue, the hypocrisy, that attended this solemn act (in the seventeenth century). Mrs. Lee believes that she has found an honest man in Senator Ratcliffe, but the veil is rudely torn from her eyes, and her last words are full of disgust with democracy and modern life: "I want to go to Egypt; democracy has shaken my nerves to pieces. Oh, what rest it would be to live in the Great Pyramid, and look out for ever at the polar star!"

Inglesant thus expresses the outcome of his intimate acquaintance with the doctrines and the working of the Church of Rome. "She has traded upon the highest instincts of humanity, upon its faith and love, its passion-

ate remorse, its self-abnegation and denial, its imagination and yearning after the unseen. It has based its system upon the profoundest truths, and upon this platform it has raised a power which has, whether foreseen by its authors or not, played the part of human tyranny, greed and cruelty. * * * It has, for the sake of preserving intact its dogma, risked the growth and welfare of humanity, and has, in the eyes of all except those who value this dogma above all other things, constituted itself the enemy of the human race." A similar charge is implied in the picture of American government revealed in "Democracy." Upon the dogma of freedom and equality the constitution of the United States has been erected; yet, owing to the caucus, the spoils system, and other causes, the whole work of government has been vitiated, its public men corrupted. "I do much regret," exclaims Baroh Jacobi, "that I have not yet one hundred years to live. If I could then come back to this city, I should find myself very content—much more than now. I am always content where there is much corruption, and, *ma parole d'honneur!* the United States will then be more corrupt than Rome under Caligula; more corrupt than the Church under Leo X.; more corrupt than France under the Regent!"

It is an ominous fact, looked at as a result of nineteenth century progress, that the noble aspirations for justice and freedom, which caused the foundation of the American republic, should have led the way to a state of corruption only to be paralleled by the work of fourteen centuries of primitive barbarism! And all this is after but one short century! Were the sore which "Democracy" reveals merely local, the matter would be had enough; but in this case we cannot flatter ourselves that our withers are unwrung. Our inevitable future in Canada lies along the road that the United States have chosen, rather than upon the lines of the monarchical institutions of the Old World. With our neighbors, we must acknowledge that the misdirection, the warping of the true democratic idea, makes our future all the harder for us. We cannot help feeling, in the words of Gore, in the novel before us, that "Democracy asserts the fact that the masses are now raised to a higher intelligence than formerly. All our civilization aims at this mark. We want to do what we can to help it. I myself want to see the result. I grant it is an experiment, but it is the only direction that society can take that is worth its taking; the only conception of its duty large enough to satisfy its instincts; the only result that is worth an effort or a wish. Every other possible step of view that the work before us is helpful. It may be somewhat severe but it is the candid criticism of a writer who recognizes facts; for with government by the people the future of our shores is inevitably associated. Nevertheless, it is necessary to be constantly on our guard, to avoid the errors of policy that our neighbors have committed, to avoid the pitfalls into which they have fallen. I will conclude with Rousseau's words of warning: "Nous tombons enfin dans l'abîme, en disant à Dieu: Pourquoi n'as-tu fait si faible? Mais malgré nous il répond à nos consciences: Je t'ai fait trop faible pour sortir du gouffre, parce que je t'ai fait assez fort pour n'y pas tomber."

R. W. B.

THE RURAL NEWSPAPER.

BY JANE LETTRELL.

Perhaps nothing is more characteristic of the little country town and its inhabitants than its newspaper. The editor, like Cassius, "is a great observer, and he looks quite through the deeds of men," gauging their mental calibre to the exactitude of a syllable, and holding his little mirror up to the world, he reflects it all with perfect accuracy. It is local rather than general in its tendencies, hence the scantiness of outside news; the dwellers in these small worlds care little about the doings of mankind beyond the limit of their own immediate acquaintance. Revolutions, dissolutions, be evolutions whether in science, literature, art or politics are at best vanities, and the serenity of rural repose shrinks, like a too sensitive plant from anything more exciting than the election of a new mayor, the appointment of the next J. P., or the annual horse-race. Yet though public events of a general nature are thus summarily disposed of, not so public characters. These, especially if the elements of the horrible or scandalous attend them, become household topics to beguile the tedium of the long evening or superinduce the social element in the otherwise business-like occupations of breakfast, dinner, and supper. Each issue of the paper, with a pertinacity worthy a higher subject, traces the career of the hero through all its ghostly or obnoxious details, and is received by its readers with an interest which also, in a better cause, would rouse "the dumb ones of the earth" to eloquence divine. But the local news is pre-eminently the attraction; not that it is news to its readers—they know it all as perfectly before the paper appears, as do a newly married pair the contents of their forthcoming marriage notice.

Still there is satisfaction in seeing it all before one's eyes in the unfolding tint of printer's ink. Now it is a local wedding that it sets before the green eye. The representative member of each family has witnessed the ceremony, and the bride's toilet has received its due share of closest scrutiny, while the bridegroom, in the city wedding an adjunct of utility, and totally paled out of notice by the "greater glory" of his more resplendent "half," here serves to refresh the dazzled vision of the argus-eyed gossips. Novelty sometimes becomes newer by handling. Never was Burleigh's "English Mercury" snatched at with more impatient interest. Is it all here? Be assured it is,

it came to the editor like the miraculous manna, or the multitudinous quails, and he, like the exasperated lawyer, determines they shall have enough, not for one day, or two days, or five days, or twenty days, but for a whole month." Every sentence is in the gala dress of superlative congratulation; again the bride and bride-groom stand foremost in descriptive array, the guests, in impinging and careful rank, bring up the rear, while auxiliaries of family connections—indistinct spectres "that haunt the family recollection—give gorgeous touches here and there, and the whole presents a picture that would cause an enraptured Frenchman to exclaim "brilliant!" Of course there is a rival newspaper to verify the adage "two of a trade," &c., and a subject of dispute must be found. What pen and ink skirmishes the readers revel in! How the rival editors, like Odin's warriors, cut and slash, hack and hew, metaphorically, making mince meat of each other, in each success issue. Now it is a caustic editorial, responded to by one still more caustic; then a scorching paragraph, breathing out wailing sarcasm and burning scorn; again it is a vituperative personal, bearing a rich fruitage of original slang, redolent of vegetable-gardens, barn-yards, and cattle-pounds; his enemy "butts away like a bull at a barn door," or is so verdant, that "if he was in the field the cows would eat him," or his paper items are "small pumpkins," or his age is reflected on, and the public is informed "he is no chicken." Opposition being the life of newspapers as well as of other things, they flourish most under this simoom of each others contumely. Then comes the "Personal" column devoted to the registration of importance, in which every rural lass who makes a five-mile visit, is made to her gratification, duly brought before publicity, and each aspiring discharger of the plough, returning from seeking fortune in the city's busy throng, is as carefully chronicled as a railway-king, or a scion of the Royal Family.

Other notices appear, the motives for which are inscrutable to the uninitiated mind. One worthy farmer, fearing the denuding effects of weather on his time-worn fence, comes to the sticking-point of resolution and paints his front railing. Long before the paint is dry, every farmer within a circuit of ten miles, has turned his horse and buggy that particular way, and with head "turned neither to the right nor to the left," has viewed it over and over, at the extreme hazard of straining the oblique muscles of his eyes. Yet, this editor, whether from a laudable desire to encourage progress or from speculative fore-knowledge, gives it prominent notice. Fruits follow; the initiative influence is strong in small communities among people of the same social standing, and the culminating paper-notice confirms the necessity—the paint-shop, and we hope the editor reaps the harvest. The intellectual capabilities of the female mind, if not exactly admitted; the masculine rural mind, believing with Mr. Bagnet, that "discipline must be maintained," are not altogether discouraged. An exciting romance that had never run the gamut of the critic's eye takes up four columns out of five on the page, and various other matters. "For the ladies," "the daughters of Eve," "The weaker vessels," &c., occupy more space. The latest fashions, which are religiously kept by the rural belle, the startling peculiarity of which novelties give rise to a suspicion of their being a *denier resort* of the masculine brain of the editor. The grand museum of our literature presents its treasures great and small; our editor despises not the mean things of its store, and selects therefrom the choicest specimens of contorted wit, arrayed in that deformed diction which is peculiarly the talent of certain writers among our American neighbors; these are provocative of healthy laughter and do not tax the brain. Like Goethe, the editor of a country paper is often a many-minded man, not great in one particular. Distinct and sometimes incongruous are the promptings of his genius. Sometimes he paints with the brush as well as the pen; sometimes his literary aptitude marks him as one who might be "smart with the tongue," and he is elevated to the auctioneer's forum; sometimes, indeed, he strikes the anvil and wields the pen. If with his dual vocation, his spelling is a little unusual and his grammar sometimes puzzling, is not our orthography in a transition state threatening revolution? A grammar—who can decide when grammarians disagree? Like the Apostles, too, our editor must be wise as a serpent, harmless as the dove, for however much he may bite, and taunt, and vituperate a rival newspaper opponent, he must beware the plough-trained muscle of his agricultural antagonist. His care must be that no offence of omission or commission slips upon him; he must weigh out his honors to the nicety of a Shylock-pound, giving neither more nor less to any man, or—lose a subscriber and all his relations (and these might embrace the whole of the inhabitants). Farmer A enters his office with the tints of his orchards and fields reflected on his self-satisfied countenance; in his hand he holds a prodigious specimen of the tuber, and from his pocket he draws forth a handful of big, ripe wheat, such as might realize again King Pharaoh's dream of plenty. His object is to astonish the man of the pen and of course secure a newspaper notice. The editor is faithful, but he is also discreet; up looms before his mind's vision, the huge form of Farmer B, and others behind, whose wrath and envy he is likely to draw upon himself if he confines his notice to Farmer A's crops. The hare has her flight, the fox his cunning, and our editor his invulnerable personality embraced in the precautionary "We." Forthwith appears his notice, well pruned down with qualifying clauses, that "Farmer A. has shown us magnificent potatoes and grand wheat, but we have been told Farmer B's are perhaps even as large while, his corn—the like was never seen before. But here to dispel the gathering wrath of any others he adds, "indeed our informant tells us the crops generally, with few exceptions, are

unusually fine this harvest." There! Farmer A. is satisfied, Farmer B. triumphant, and all the others rejoicing in the thought that their neighbour's are the exceptional crops. If Fame's offerings are scant this year, if subscriptions do not pour in, in the unalloyed currency of mother earth, then Ceres is a niggard or a shrew!

SOME LANDSCAPE GARDENING.

To an institution which has such a career of extension before it as a University in America and which occupies a position surrounded with enough vacant land, some general plan for the architectural disposition of its future buildings, and furthermore some publicity regarding that plan, would seem advisable.

If the authorities of McGill have any such scheme in view, they have apparently, by reluctance to put restraints upon the freedom of benefactors, been deterred from making it public. Perhaps this reason has prevented them from even entertaining a scheme. Being less prominent on the one hand, however, yet on the other having an interest in the University, I can air without danger a few ideas which have long been cherished on the subject. In the first place, the great aim should be to reacquire some time or other, as nearly as possible, the whole square from the Medical and Presbyterian colleges down to Sherbrooke street. Mr. Joseph's house should be kept in view as the final Principal's residence, and in the meantime one ought to be bought from among those on the University street, rather than a new one erected on our limited grounds.

My pet idea, however, and the nearest to present uses, concerns the dormitories. All the land from the Presbyterian college down to Mr. Joseph's line, including the two houses with picturesque back galleries, should be acquired for these. The houses removed, a long building, either of red brick with black mortar or of cut stone, should be constructed in the Elizabethan style, or "late Perpendicular," with the squarish dripstones, by which the most interesting of the Oxford colleges are characterized. The Normal School gives a hint of what is meant, though sadly unglorified. Such a building—inexpensive, appropriate and impressive—would have a fine appearance looking over the campus. The unsightly board fences would disappear to make way for a continuation of the campus lawn.

W. D. L.

ACTION IN ORATORY.

Oratorical action is fourfold: mental, muscular, memoral and vocal. The brain is the orator's most important part; the voice comes next; next comes the muscular system; and last come the limbs. No looseness in the limbs when excitement runs high; strain the muscular system to its utmost tension; but above all be sure that the tones of your voice are tuned to the state of your mind. Every capability of the human voice is at the instantaneous command of the man who can give language its most of meaning, and thought its most of might. Read the Oration on the Crown. You will then be able to understand why Demosthenes considered action the soul of oratory. It was the action of the voice that placed him on the pinnacle of oratorical success and renown. The long, lingering, scornful *sicte* with which the exclamation, "I reproach thee with the intimacy of Alexander!" drags its deep thunder from the orator's lungs could only have been accomplished by a carefully cultivated voice. Your voice requires cultivation? Go to the stormy shore or the subterranean vaults and imitate Demosthenes. Dread not the ridicule of ignorance and gossip. Shie's landlady thought she had a madman in her house; and there were many in Athens who would have attributed insanity to Demosthenes had they seen him in his sunless chamber, or heard him on the shore. Teach that inflexible voice to glide upward and downward with the ease of a bird; and never rest till you can reproduce those vocal reverberations that "shook the Arsenal and fulminated over Greece to Macedon and Artaxerxes's throne." But the matter must also be regarded from another point of view. As powerless as the matter may be regarded of Aulus may yet be the voice that, having been cultivated to the highest degree of refinement, flexibility and force, is equal to the instant and adequate representation of the most delicate shades of feeling that float upon the surface of the mind. In order that oratory may obtain its mightiest effect, mind and tongue must work harmoniously together. The least hitch in their harmony throws the whole orchestra out of tune. The voice must be the slave of the will; the mind must be the slave of the voice. All the links of the argument must instantly follow each other. Facts, fancies, metaphors, similes, illustrations and appeals come at the orator's call, command or need. Systematized knowledge is needed to keep the tongue in constant action. Knowledge is the lake from which the river of eloquence flows, and it must flow in an uninterrupted stream. If you wish to be an orator, cultivate your voice, study your subject, educate your mind, rouse your enthusiasm, and make yourself master of learning's domain. Cicero insisted upon universality in an orator's information. If action is the soul of oratory, firmness is the soul of action. The brain should move first, the muscular system next, next the limbs, and last of all the voice.

Sporting Items.

OUR GAMES.

The public have long before this been furnished with accounts of the College sports held on the lawn on Friday, Oct. 20th. Any detailed account is therefore at this late date uncalled for. Most of the exercises were well contested, especially the championship and the 220 yards (open). The long races of course went to McTaggart who was in capital condition.

Prof. Moyses in his speech at the close of the distribution of the prizes directed attention to a matter that calls for more than a passing notice at our hands, viz: the establishment of an Athletic Association in the College. In a subsequent issue we will deal more fully with this important question.

We, as undergraduates, pay annually a large sum for gymnastic instruction and without a sufficient return for our expenditure of time and money. It would require but a small effort, if a general one, to establish a gymnasium at the College. Besides it would make our games something more than a walk over for the few who take the trouble to train.

The games committee, elected as they are but a few days before the sports come off, can hardly be blamed for a poor ground. A track should be flagged out at least a week before the games for practice. A sod track is always a slow one at best but a grass-ground lumpy one, like the one our athletic friends struggled and stumbled over on the 20th, is as little conducive to good time as it is to graceful motion.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

McGill v. Toronto University—4th November.

McGill v. Britannia—9th November.

The tour of the Toronto University Football Team will comprise matches with Trinity College, Port Hope, Nov. 2nd; Royal Military College, Nov. 3rd; McGill, Nov. 4th; and perhaps the Britanians, on Monday, the 6th. They deserve credit for their pluck, and may they win—all but one.

FOOTBALL.

McGill College v. Royal Military College, Kingston.

This, which was the opening match of the season in Montreal, came off on the College Grounds, on Friday, 13th October. It was a perfect day for football—dry and cold, yet not too cold for the comfort of the spectators, with little or no wind. The number of spectators was considerable, and we were delighted to see a good sprinkling of the fair sex, which served to enliven the scene and to make the interest in the proceedings greater. We must, however, observe that great inconvenience was caused not only to those engaged in the game, but also to many of the spectators, by the way in which numbers of those present persisted in standing beyond the touch line in the field of play. We should recommend that in future a number of stewards be appointed to keep the people off the ground.

It is needless to say that great interest has been manifested in the result of this the first match of the year, because it has been the misfortune of the College to lose some of her best men by the usual method of granting degrees, and it was only natural that there should exist a little nervousness as to the way in which the new members would acquit themselves. The result was eminently satisfactory, and will serve, no doubt, to show the McGill captain where the weak points of his team lie. In our opinion, the present team, with a little modification and a great deal of practice, will turn out one of the best which the College has ever possessed.

The Cadets having won the toss, chose the Sherbrooke Street goal, and at 3.30 to the minute Haythorne kicked off for McGill. Looking at the two teams as they faced one another, one could not fail to be struck with the fact that the Cadets were by far the heavier of the two. After the kick off, the McGill forwards immediately followed up, and a scrimmage was formed about 25 yards from the Kingston goal. From this position the ball was gradually worked to the centre of the field, where some heavy scrumming took place, in which McGill got rather the better of it. Joly, however, did good work for the Cadets. At this point some short runs and a good display of passing were made by Hague and Murray. The Cadets then obtained a free, which came to Grant, who, in trying to pass, threw the ball forward, and a scrimmage had to be formed. Another free was well returned by Hamilton, but soon after Murray, obtaining the ball, ran back and was collared near the McGill goal. Some dropping by Hamilton, however, and runs by Hague and Murray, saved the position, and the ball was returned to Kingston territory. Soon after, a kick by Hague brought the ball into touch near the Cadet goal. Just then Hamilton got a free about

30 yards from the goal, which missed, and was returned to Haythorne, who dropped, but the ball was caught by one of the Cadet backs, who took a free. Again the ball was brought to the Kingston goal by the good play of Unsworth and Murray, and the Cadets were obliged to touch down in self-defence. The aspect now changed, and the ball was gradually worked by a series of scrimmages to the other end of the field, and went into touch a short distance from the McGill goal line. A good run by Weller brought the ball nearer still, when a drop was attempted, and turning out a failure, the ball came to Hamilton, who kicked at it on the ground, and caused it to strike one of the Kingston forwards. Hopping off him, it was obtained by Neyland, who succeeded in grounding it, and the touch was converted into a neat goal.

Hamilton then kicked off, and the ball remained for a considerable time in neutral ground. The first run was made by Murray, but the ball soon returned to Hamilton, who made a telling kick. The Cadets very soon obtained a free, which, followed by a rush of the forwards and a long kick by Duffus, obliged Murray to touch in self-defence. Hamilton's kick off from the 25 yards post was returned by the Kingston back, and a scrimmage was formed near the College goal. Murray relieved his side, but the ball was returned to Grant, who was collared near the goal line. Some nice passing then took place among the Cadets, but it ended in a scrimmage being formed on the goal line, from which Hamilton obtained the ball and touched in self-defence. Haythorne kicked off from 25 yards, and a scrimmage was formed in the centre. The Cadets shortly obtained a free, which was returned by Hamilton. A run by Joly followed, but he was well collared by Grant. Smith, R., however, had soon to touch in self-defence. The ball was now brought to the centre of the field, and soon the scrimmage approached the Cadet goal through the good play of Murray and Hislop. When time was called, the ball was right in front of the Cadet goal.

After the second kick off, the scrimmage was worked up to the Kingston territory, where one of the Cadets obtained a free. The ball coming to Grant, was missed by him, and passing on to Hamilton, the latter sent it to Weller, who missed it, and a scrimmage was formed about 25 yards from the Kingston goal. A run by Murray brought it to the full back, who returned it to Hamilton. The latter then dropped a goal amidst great enthusiasm. At this point of the proceedings Hamilton was "bounced." After kick off the ball came well into Kingston territory, the scrimmage being gradually worked to the goal line, but Duffus relieved his side. Soon after a kick by Hamilton resulted in a free for the Cadets, which came to Haythorne. The latter missed his chance, and a scrimmage was formed in the centre of the field. Murray, by a magnificent run, then brought the ball to the very goal line, where a scrimmage was formed, and the Cadets touched in defence. A scrimmage was immediately formed at 25 yards. From this position the play was brought to the centre of the field by a good run of Weller's. But Van Hiffland soon after missed a kick, and Twynning sent the ball into touch, near his own goal line. From the scrimmages which were now formed, Hamilton twice dropped for goal, but missed, and the ball was brought to the centre by a kick from Twynning. A free placed for Twynning resulted in Hamilton's touching in defence. A good run by Hague brought the ball to the centre. Shortly after the Kingston full back missed a kick, and the forwards following up, a scrimmage was formed near the line, which was gradually worked up to touch at 25 yards. A kick by Twynning brought the ball once more to the centre, but Smith (A. W.) brought it back to within ten yards of the line by a fine display of dribbling. Haythorne just then made a drop at goal, but missed, and Hugel returned the ball to the centre. A free was returned by Hamilton into touch, from which the ball was carried by Hugel and Harry to within ten yards of the line. The position was saved by Hamilton, whose kick was returned to Haythorne, who brought it to the centre by a free. It was now gradually worked into Cadet territory, where Smith (A. W.) finally went into touch close to the goal line, and from a scrimmage the second touch was obtained by Hague. The goal having been missed by Haythorne, the scrimmage was formed immediately about three yards from the line. From this position the ball was gradually worked to the centre of the field, where it was when "no side" was called.

Where all played so well, it would be wrong to particularize, but we must mention the good tackling of Messrs. Robertson and Wright for McGill, and the good all-round play of Carruthers, Straubenzie and Davidson for the Cadets.

Queen's College, Kingston, held its annual sports on Oct. 17th in the city park.

The *British Whig*, a local paper says that "the students were out in crowds, and entered spiritedly into the sports, contesting with vigour, and straining every nerve in their efforts to outstrip each other."

It afterwards describes one of the races in the following ambiguous manner—

"The first race was of a three-legged character. Two persons had their legs tied closely together, and in this manner were required to run about 150 yards."

One of their students, Mr. Bertram, carried off eight first prizes.

College World.

Yale has issued a new book of songs.

Four hundred applicants were examined for the different undergraduates' departments of Yale College.

There are eighty-six students in the freshman's class at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This college has an Architectural Department, a thing much needed in McGill.

The Committee of Athletics of Harvard College has decided that hereafter no professional trainer shall be allowed to give the athletes of that college the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

The *University Monthly*, from Fredericton, N.B., appears for the first time on our table. It is a sixteen page paper, and is published by the Literary and Debating Society of the New Brunswick University.

The Boston and Albany Railroad have given the Senior Civil Engineers of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology the privilege of riding free over their road at any time to see the engineering works on the road, as bridges, &c. Will any of the Canadian roads running into Montreal ever do as much for McGill?

Among the few exchanges received up to the present is the first number of the second volume of *The Tech*, from the Institute of Technology, Boston. It is a very neatly got up paper, and largely devoted to college news. The Freshmen have a special portion of it for their own benefit, headed "The Children's Department," in beautiful large print that can easily be read, with all the long words hyphenated out into syllables. *The Tech* has advanced a step beyond the average college paper and introduced cartoons.

"School" was played at the Academy of Music on Tuesday night by the "Montefiore Club," under the direction of Mr. Neil Warner, for the benefit of the Women's Wing of the Western Hospital. The Bishop's College medical students attended in a body, behaved badly, of course—medical students always do—and afterwards serenaded their professors.

Trinity College, Dublin.—Mickey Roberts, a Senior Fellow and renowned mathematician in this University died very recently at an advanced age. About him and his twin brother Billy who is a Fellow, many amusing anecdotes are told. As a matter of fact they resembled one another so closely that only their most intimate friends could distinguish them without difficulty, and one of the most reliable traditions still handed down is that Mickey passed the Fellowship examination twice, first for himself, and some years afterwards for his brother Billy.

Princeton College.—The new telescope at Halsted Observatory ranks fourth in the list of great refractors in use, and is by far the largest belonging to any collegiate institution. The telescope and appliances cost \$26,000, which sum was contributed by the friends of the College. The diameter of the object glass is 32 inches. The focal length is 50 feet 1 inch. The steel tube of the telescope has a length of 28 feet and a diameter of 33 inches in the middle. The weight of the telescope and mounting is about seven tons. The makers were Alvan Clark & Sons.

MCGILL.

The lecture room of the Law Faculty has been furnished with aesthetic desks a la Oscar Wilde pattern; at least they are too too utterly uncomfortable for the average law student.

The ghosts of our future spiritual advisers are said to be seen by early risers disporting themselves on the damp grass of the *campus* every morning in the bucolic game of base-ball.

A contest is spoken of between our local pugilists B— and H— for the feather-weight championship of the Medical College. The former is in excellent form, at least so R— says. No pools to be sold.

At meetings held for the election of Medical class officers, the following were elected representatives for their respective years: Fourth year—President, Chas. E. Cameron; Secretary, R. B. Struthers. Second year—President, W. C. Cattanaich; Secretary, _____.

At the first meeting of the Reading-Room Committee, held on Thursday, the 5th Oct., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Chairman, J. R. Murray, 4th year Arts; Secretary, G. C. Wright, 3rd year Arts; Treasurer, R. Smith, 4th year Applied Science.

Perhaps the Sports Committee would provide, say, an ordinary circus tent for such of the athletes as display such a morbid tendency to wander about while "changing their uniforms," in order that they may do so under cover. The public attending the sports, we dare say, would gladly donate the tent.

We have it on reliable authority that the Hon. Justice Mackay is about to present to the College his private library consisting of between three and four thousand volumes. A few more such donations as this will place the McGill College library on a level with those university libraries of which the citizens of the United States are so justly proud.

The senior engineers have the old museum for their drawing-room since the erection of the Redpath building. It is a fine room; but the Black Hole of Calcutta would have answered about as well for the purpose,—more light and ventilation are badly needed; and besides inch boards laid on the top of two carpenter's saw-horses do not make good drawing tables, even if the saw-horses were steady.

The programme of the undergraduates Literary Society on the night of the 25th ultimo was an agreeable change from that usually followed. Dr. Murray very kindly delivered a lecture to the Society on University Literary Societies and their uses. As the lecture has been already reported in the daily papers, nothing more need be said than that it was listened to with marked attention. At its close, a vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturer for the pleasure and instruction he had afforded to those present.

FACULTY OF LAW.

The first meeting of the Moot Court of this Faculty was held on Friday, the 27th October last, Professor Lareau, B. C. L., presiding.

The case before the Court was one in which the plaintiff sought to recover the amount of an hypothec from the defendant and *tiers-détenteurs* of the property mortgaged. The defense pleaded a possession of ten years as proprietor under a translatory title, maintaining that in accordance with act 2,251 C. C. the defendant had prescribed the ownership and liberated himself from all servitudes, charges, and hypothecs on said property. The plaintiff answered that the said title had never been registered. That registration was a necessary formality for all acts *inter vivos* transferring property.

That under an unregistered title the defendant could not be said to have possessed as proprietor. That the property in the immovable had always remained with the original vendor, as was clear from the decisions in *Lalonde vs. Lynch* XX, L. C. J. 168, and in *Lefebvre vs. Branchaud*, XXII, L. C. J. 73.

The whole case then resolved itself to the question—can an unregistered conveyance serve as the basis for a ten years prescription against a duly registered hypothec? The learned professor decided that it could not. It was therefore his duty, he said, to dismiss the plea, and maintain the plaintiff's action with costs.

MESSRS. HAGUE & DUCLOS, for plaintiff.

MESSRS. DICKSON & McLENNAN, for defendant.

The idea of holding such Moot Courts is not a recent one in McGill, but of late years it has not received the hearty support of the students, and the sittings have in consequence been few and far between. We are glad to hear that it is the intention of the committee, to arrange one every week, the result can only be of incalculable advantage to all taking part therein. We would earnestly advise every student of this Faculty to discard the old plea of "no time" and resolve to carry this matter through successfully. As the questions chosen by the professors are always strictly in connection with the subject on which they lecture, it can only prove of the greatest profit as well in the examinations, as in after practice.

Facetiae.

Cook.—A song.

St. Jacob's Oil will not be advertised in these columns.

The "vets" were prepared to shout themselves horse had their "team" won the Tug of War.

The thief who entered the Medical College the other night, wasn't an American. He stole "George Washington's" coat.

"As the *hart* paneth" &c. &c. thirsted a medical Freshie for the gore of the chap, who *misplaced* his borrowed os inominatum last week.

At a recent lecture the professor spoke of himself as "myself and another eminent member of the bar, &c." Who shall say the days of Cicero are no more?

A few pounds of Metallic Potassium, judiciously located in the front seat in anatomy, might cure the expectorating propensities of a couple of tobacco ruminants.

The most extraordinary ocular phenomenon which presented itself at the games the other day, was a sweet young lady, who instead of a pupil, had an undergraduate in her eye.

Appropos of the "Marmion" embroglio; William Shakespeare is running for Secretary of State in Michigan, and several old farmers are not going to vote for him, because they've read some things in a book he wrote that they consider immoral.

"Lemons may be kept fresh for a long time in a jar of water, changing the water every morning."—*Agents' Herald*. "We have often seen this used as a recipe for lemaning, and can reconmend its economy."—*Yale Record*. The addition of an ounce of C₂ H₄ O. in every glass of the water greatly improves its qualities.

The day of the sports, a member of the committee was awkwardly removing the sods in one portion of the grounds, in order to make a soft place for the jumpers to leap into. Among the onlookers were a number of "meds," who regarded the bungling efforts of the committee-man with great disgust. Finally, the feelings of one of them became too strong for him, and seizing the spade, he commenced to cut the sods and lay them aside in a really workmanlike manner. The bystanders admired his skill, but began to have doubts as to his former occupation. These, however, were soon set at rest, for one of his companions, less discreet than the others, blurted out the information that the knight of the spade had served his apprenticeship at body snatching.

Personals.

F. WEIR, '82, Law, is at present in Switzerland.

W. E. DIXON, '83, Law has become a Benedict.

G. G. FOSTER, '81, Law is practising in Knowlton, P. Q.

Dr. B. F. HEARDMAN, '82, medicine is studying in London, Eng.

Mr. A. W. MARTIN, '82, has gone to Harvard to study theology.

Mr. W. F. THOMAS, '82, is at present studying law in London, Ont.

A. D. STROTHERS, '81, medicine is practising in Freleighsburg, P. Q.

A. P. LEW, '82, Ap. Sc., is on the Geological Survey Staff at Ottawa.

J. H. BURLAND, '82, Ap. Sc., has gone into business with his father in the city.

T. D. GREEN, '82, Ap. Sc., is on the Staff of the Pontiac Pacific Junction road.

DR. PEARSON, a graduate of Ann Arbor, is attending the medical course here this session.

MR. F. F. MILLER, '82, Ap. Sc., is acting as assistant to Prof. Bovey. He has charge of the junior classes in Engineering.

PHIL. FOSTER, '82, Ap. Sc., has a situation on the Engineering Staff of the Canada Pacific Railroad, about 500 miles west of Winnipeg.

J. DRUMMOND, '82, Ap. Sc., is in charge of a party in the North-West surveying base lines, with J. J. Collins, '82, as one of his assistants.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, a last year's freshman in medicine, was married to Miss Martha Castins, during the summer vacation. Both are doing well.

JAS. McMEERIN, '85, medicine decided to take a better half during the summer vacation.—

"Mac" is very popular in his class.

DR. FENWICK, who has been in England for some time past, arrived home on Monday, and has resumed his lectures in Surgery. During his absence the chair was ably filled by Dr. Koddick.

Of the graduates of '82—CLARENDON RUTHERFORD, A. M. M. D., is practising in Chicago; E. W. SMITH, A. B. M. D. in West Meriden, Conn.; CHAS. O. BROWN, M. D., in Barnston, Que.; T. J. PIERCE O'BRIEN, in Kansas city; ALEX. SHAW, in Bancroft, Mich.; W. E. THOMPSON, Assistant Surgeon, Canada Pacific R. R., Matawan; EDMUND CHRISTIE, in Lachute.

MCGILL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

At the first regular meeting of this Society this Session, held Oct. 7th, in the rooms of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Phillip's Square, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the session.

President	DR. WM. STEPHEN.
1st. Vice-President	J. GRAY.
2nd. " "	J. B. LORING.
Secretary	W. S. RENNER.
Treasurer	W. McCLURE.
Librarian	R. F. RUTTAN, B. A.
Pathologist	W. G. JOHNSTON.
Councillors	{ DR. MOLSON, A. W. CLEMENT & J. S. LATHERN.

Sixteen new members were added.

At the second meeting, held Oct. 21st., Mr. Johnston gave an amusing reading entitled—"Alopecia"—and Mr. A. W. Clement read a carefully prepared paper on Trichinosis.

The meetings are held fortnightly and commence at half-past eight, all students are invited.

Correspondence.

ECHOES FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

[The following letter has been received from a graduate in arts of '80, and though not intended for publication, it can not fail to be interesting to all young men, giving, as it does, personal experiences on that most important question of to-day, the Far West, and doubtly interesting to students, having been written by one who was very recently of their number. Ed.]

"IN CAMP,"

Township 51, 4th Principal Meridian,
North West Territory.

MY DEAR C——

My first injunction to you is that before proceeding further, you will procure a map and thoroughly satisfy yourself of my exact whereabouts, on this 12th day of September, 1882. Having done so, you may rest assured that you have not the slightest idea of my "then location," as M—— used to translate Caesar, for with us it is a rule, somewhat of necessity, never to stay two days in the same camp, Sundays, of course, excepted. Many and great have been my experiences since last I strained my eyes trying to see you and my fond brother, through the filth and stench of Bonaventure Street; nor is it with feelings unsatisfactory that I am able to report to you that 99 per cent. of them have been pleasant.

In order to change the monotony of things, we took it into our heads about a month ago to eat up all the provisions, and just at the time when our new lot of stores *should have been* brought, we found ourselves with three or four pounds of pork and one bag of mouldy flour. It so happened that I was sent ahead to run or rather correct a badly surveyed line of twenty-four miles. I had under me the cook and five of the worst grumblers that ever saw light. We finished the work in three days, and then camped and waited for the "boss" to follow with the remainder of the party.

After two or three days instead of the "boss" came a messenger saying that we were all to return, as the provisions were almost exhausted and there were no signs of the men sent to Battleford. I shall never forget the day we arrived at the head camp. Such a picture of misery you never saw. No word of the men, whom we thought were starved and lost, the flour all out, a few hammocks (flour and water baked) hard and mouldy, all the shot gone, no wood to be found, and "the children of Israel murmuring." We had some leaden bullets left. These were melted, poured into their flat moulds and cut into square shot with scissors. This material was given to the two best shots of the party with a third man, C——, to drive them, and they were sent off to an alkali creek. Alkali creeks (not lakes) always abound with ducks. One day the party brought home *facults*, having fired only *five* shots! Meanwhile the "boss" started off for Battleford, leaving the camp under the charge of St. C—— and myself. But it was not for long, for on the road they met our two men with provisions, just in time to see one of our horses give out. He died that night before reaching camp. Cause: "That the deceased came to his death from sundry and numerous kicks in the stomach, with a verdict of not guilty against the rider on account of extenuating circumstances." It turned out that our two braves had followed a wrong trail, and had traveled some *ninety* miles out of their road. During this season of Lent, one of our men went through the process of making five new holes in his belt, but since the provisions have arrived he is seriously contemplating sewing an additional piece of leather on his digestion meter—a growing instance of how vacillating and changeable some men are. I have no more dark pictures to draw. I do not however think that I could give such bold strokes to the others, as there has generally been too much sunlight upon the originals, and my eyes being dazzled, I have not sufficiently impressed the outlines upon my memory. We see so many new things every day and hour that our minds are constantly occupied trying to ferret out the causes of them. Indians are very scarce, and what there are are great cowards, the only danger to be apprehended from that quarter is that they steal your horses at night.

We experienced our first large prairie fire last week. It did not stop work for long though. We burnt our way through it, and worked in the middle where it was all burnt out. That night we encamped within $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile of it, but the wind was blowing across. On the night of the 3th Sept, we had heavy frost sufficient to hold water upside down. And yet we are in the most lovely country we have seen so far. Any amount of wooded land, good water, and first class soil. I would be completing my happiest dreams to squat down just where we are. It could not be done much under \$1500 for one, or \$2000 for two settling together. For stock raising it is simply unequal. The grain at Battleford, S. W. by W. of us, is all housed three weeks ago, so that these early frosts would do no real harm. The winter no doubt would be hard, but one must make up one's mind to endure hardships, if one settles before the tide of emigration. Two of us could take up half a square mile, and reserve another half square mile to buy after three years. I am going out this afternoon to prospect so as to have a section in my eye. A settlement would very soon be formed, if the country were only written about. There is no doubt about it, it is first class. After spending a summer on the prairie, carting your *wood* for eighty miles, one respects a woody country. And it is not such a country as would require much clear-

ing, of course there would be a certain amount of brush to clear. I can see the makings of a great country around here, and any one who chooses to come early has a grand opportunity of keeping ahead of the community.

We are going North twelve miles further to Township 53, and then will turn West on the 14 Base line, until about the last week of October, when we will turn and retrace our steps. Remember me kindly to all my fellow graduates.

Your faithful old chum,

H. H.

A REVIEW OF OUR LAST FOOT-BALL SEASON.

On looking back over our record of last year, we may justly conclude that altogether it has been a most successful one. We were particularly happy, I think, in our choice of captain, for we could fulfil the duties of that position better than did Mr. Thomas. It is no light work to reorganize the team for a new season, as we always unavoidably lose some of the best players of the preceding year. In commencing the season of 1881 we lost eight of the old men; some of them being among the best players we have ever had in the University. To fill their places required not a little judgment on the part of the captain and match committee. We soon, however, got the team picked, and our first match was the annual one with the Montreal club. This match was the only one out of the four matches played in which we were defeated, and the result was mainly due to the impossibility of getting the team into good practice in so short a time. It is impossible to play well together without practice, and without combined play we are nothing. This defeat, instead of discouraging, seemed only to stimulate our energy; with more practice and training we were soon in better form, so that in our second match—that with Kingston—we came out victorious. This match, I remember, was played in the pouring rain, as, indeed, were many of the matches last year.

It is our custom to leave the city at least once every year on the invitation of some distant club, to play them on their own ground. Last year we decided to go to Toronto to play the University. We will long remember the enjoyable time we had on the journey and the hearty reception by the students. On the morning of the match, however, it was just seen that nearly all the men suffered from a slight indisposition, and upon inquiry we found out that the city water was the probable cause of the malady. It seemed at first sight that we could not be in particularly good condition to suffer from so slight a cause, but when we were told that even the oldest inhabitant could not stand the city water without its having been first put through half a dozen filters, we began to think our constitutions not so very weak after all. In spite of this we never entered upon a match in better form. On both sides there was the anticipation of victory, and we must acknowledge that we never had a harder struggle for the mastery, nor played against more courteous opponents. Our return drive was like an ovation, everybody turning out to see us and hear the McGill songs. The trip to Toronto will be remembered by all as one of the most enjoyable ever taken by the club, and I hope that when the Toronto University team comes down this year they will experience as hospitable treatment at our hands. Our last match was the most important one of the year. It came off on November 19th, and was the last foot-ball match of the season. We looked forward to this match with more than ordinary interest, as we were to play the Britannias, the champion foot-ball club of Montreal. To quote from the excellent account of the match in the *Gazette*: "Both clubs were confident, and justly so, as the season had been a successful one for both of them. The excitement was heightened by the fact that the clubs were playing for the Montreal Challenge Cup, which the Britannias had won in their last match with the Montrealers. In fact, it was confidently expected by all that the match would be a fine one, and these expectations were fully realized." The match resulted in a draw, and was declared by all to be one of the closest and best contested of the season. To quote again from the *Gazette's* account: "The Captains of both clubs are to be complimented on the form displayed by their respective teams. Out of the McGill fifteen, only six played on the team last year. Owing to the shortness of the College term, Mr. Thomas has only had about six weeks in which to bring his team to their present condition, and the result is one of which he and the University may well be proud." This match fifty ended our foot-ball season of 1881. As a member of last year's team, I hope I may be pardoned for according so much praise to our efforts. I wish, however, to draw attention more to the means than to the end, more to the method and management than to the results attained. It is only by obedience to the Captain, constant practice and careful training that a team attains any high state of efficiency. More especially is this true of the McGill team, where we often, if not always, have to make up with skill and play for a disadvantage in strength and weight.

After this short sketch of the matches of last year, I have but to add that it is the duty of every McGill undergraduate to promote the interests of foot-ball by every means in his power. If this is done, I may venture to predict for the present team an even more successful season than last year's, and that McGill will worthily retain her position among the foot-ball clubs of Canada.

ONE OF THE TEAM.

Poetry.

THE SONG OF THE "MED."

(Written for the MCGILL COLLEGE GAZETTE.)

With fingers lanky and long,
With whiskers curly and red,
A student sat with his apron on,
Dissecting a subject's head.
Cut, cut, cut.
On a party *long since dead*.
And he gave his whiskers a curl and a
twist
Whilst he sang the Song of the Med.
"Slice, slice, slice,
What my book says must be proved,
And slice, slice, slice,
'The muscle may now be removed.'
'Tis oh! to be an 'Arts,'
But they their lectures shirk,
And their study is only in fits and
starts,
Compared with a Medical's work.

"Scrape, scrape, scrape,
O'er the subject my scalpel does skim;
Scrape, scrape, scrape,
My work doesn't matter to him.
Vein and muscle and gland,
Gland and muscle and vein,

Draw the knife lightly over the fascia
deep,
And don't close attention disdain.

"Oh! but to breathe the breath
Of dissecting rooms so sweet!
With bodies around us spread,
Yclept by the witty 'cold meat,'
Smoke slightly improves our lot,
And so does stealing a bench,
But it really is queer that dissecting
room '*hier*'
Our thirst for knowledge can't quench."

With fingers lanky and long,
With whiskers curly and red,
The student sat with his apron on,
While singing he'd finished his *head*.
Cut, slice, scrape,
And it really must be said—
That he is extremely fond of his work,
And not at all likely its duties to
shirk,
Though he sang this "Song of the
Med."

ANNE-ATOMY.

FLORIMEL.

Tasso, in his tuneful story,
Celebrates that garden's glory,
Where Armida's magic trains
Kept Rinaldo bound in chains.
Such a necromantic ground!
I in Florimel have found;
Such a necromantic queen
I in Florimel have seen;
For the roguish look that lies
In her rainbow-rounded eyes
Gifted is with greater power
Than the juice of Circe's flower.
If thou hast a hardy heart
Exercise thy gazing art
On the witchery of her ways
And the magic of her gaze.

But, though boldness may behold
That inimitable mould
And ineffable delight
Drink from the celestial sight,
Let me drop a warning word
To the heart that, lightly stirred
By the love-look in an eye,
If it cannot win, must die;
Look not nigh her! Look askance
From the conflict of her glance;
Or, if admiration be
Iresistible in thee,
Gaze upon her from afar.
As thou gazest on a star;
Something beautiful to see—
Beautiful, but not for thee.

Notes and Queries.

"Who wrote the *Patience of Hope*, the *White Crusade* and other short poems?"

List of New Books Received.

During the Month of October, 1882.

- Civil Engineers, London. Minutes of Proceedings. Vol. 59. 1882.
Society of Engineers, London. Transactions for 1879.
Preyer. Die Seele des Kindes.
Pollock. Spinoza; his Life and Philosophy.
Fechner. In Sachen der Psychophysik.
Geiger. Zur Entwickelungsgeschichte der Menschheit.
Schurman. Kantian Ethics, and the Ethics of Evolution.
Seth. The Development from Kant to Hegel.
Madhava Acharya. The Sāhva-Darsana-Samgraha.
Rosmini Serbatì. The Philosophical System of. By Thomas Davidson.
Harper. The Metaphysics of the School. 2 vols.
Bain. John Stuart Mill. A Criticism.
Bain. James Mill. A Biography.
Stephen. The Science of Ethics.
Leopardi. Essays and Dialogues.
Stirling. Text Books to Kant, Pure Reason, &c.
Aristotle. Psychology of. By E. Wallace.
Royal Society, London. Transactions and Proceedings, 1881-82.
Journals of the Senate, Sessional Papers, Statutes, &c.
Rankine. Civil Engineering. 13th Ed.

M. WILLIAMS TAYLOR,
Asst.-Librarian.

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London Illustrated News.

The Graphic.
Harper's Weekly.
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