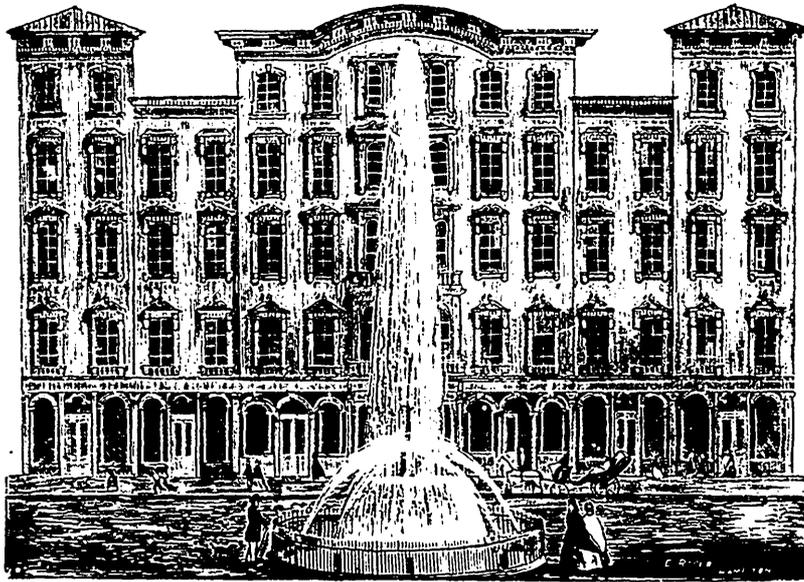


February, 1893.

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# THE PORTFOLIO

"VITA SINE LITERIS MORS EST."

VOL. XIII.

HAMILTON, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1893.

No. 4.

## The Portfolio.

Published monthly in the interests of the Wesleyan Ladies' College, Hamilton, Ont., its students, Alumnae and friends.

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### Notes.

As this is the first issue of the Portfolio since the close of '92, surely it will not be inappropriate to wish our readers every success and happiness in the New Year upon which we have entered. '92 with its pains and pleasures has left us forever, and the year '93 is to be happier

than its predecessor. We must work to make it so through our own actions. Happiness is not an attendant on idleness, therefore we must keep our minds and hands busily employed in order that a state of enjoyment may be ours. If some slight task be allotted to each passing hour time will move quickly and pleasantly on, and we will not be afflicted with ennui, the greatest foe to happiness.

To some of us '93 is the year of years. Far back in our freshman course we looked eagerly forward to our graduation and '93 indeed appeared to us a magic number. In that year we hoped to realize all our fondly nourished dreams of honor and distinction, and enjoy fully the favors and privileges granted us in our position as Seniors. '93 is now here, and our expectations are amply fulfilled. We are Seniors, and we must confess that in all our student life, there has been nothing which gave us a greater feeling of satisfaction than being distinguished by that significant word, Senior! Why it means everything to us! Our school days are nearly over; soon we will leave our College Halls forever and go forth into the world to commence the battle of life, but not unarmed or unaided. We will strive to carry with us the weapons of warfare, knowledge, intelligence, dispassionate judgment, trained reasoning powers, and a little common sense. Equipped thus, surely we may hope for success.

Mingled with our feeling of joy at our emancipation from school life, is a deep feeling of regret, that in June we must sever the strong ties of friendship and affection which now bind us to our fellow students. But year after year as each senior class takes its farewell, strong bonds are broken, and in our case there will be no exception.

Note well Reading Matter at foot of Pages.

So while enjoying to the utmost the pleasures of our senior year at college, we cannot help regretting that we will have to part so soon from our dearly loved companions.

O '93, year of all years to us,  
Thou art bringing with thee many pleasures  
and some sorrows;  
But we will endeavor to receive both of them  
Cheerfully and submissively.

### Sir Francis Bacon.

"No name in British Annuals is more illustrious than that of Bacon, and none shaded with more lasting shame."

Francis Bacon, son of Sir Nicholas Bacon Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, was born in London, January 22nd, 1561. In youth his quick wit and precocious gravity won him favor with the Queen. At thirteen he went to Cambridge, where in the three years he remained he conceived a great dislike to the Aristotelian Philosophy

Upon leaving school he went to France, where he became imbibed with a taste for magnificence and display, which kept him a needy man all through life. Re-called to England in 1579 by his father's death, he commenced the study of law. In 1582 he was called to the bar and in 1585 he obtained a seat in the House of Commons for Melbourn, where he commanded the attention of all, for he was a man of no common powers.

Bacon's conduct with regard to the Earl of Essex has been severely criticised, but whether this criticism has been justly bestowed we are not prepared to say. Some authors give the story of it somewhat like this:—

Bacon and Essex becoming very intimate the latter unsuccessfully tried to secure for his friend the office of Solicitor General to and partially compensate him for this disappointment, Essex gave him a valuable estate on the Thames. But Bacon soon began to mistrust his friend and their intimacy was soon at an end Bacon's power steadily augmented during the reign of Elizabeth, while Essex was constantly

getting into troubles which endangered his life. It is said that Bacon did all he could to save his former friend, but finally, at the command of the Queen he drew up a paper charging Essex with treason and soon his life was ended on the scaffold.

In 1597 his celebrated essays appeared, which had been written during these changeful years of his life. In 1606 he was married to Alice Barnham, the daughter of a Cheapside Merchant. A short time before this Bacon had been knighted by King James. In 1607 he became Solicitor General; in 1613, Attorney General, four years later he received the Great Seal; and in the following year he was made Lord High Chancellor of England with the title of Baron Verulam which soon became Viscount St. Albans.

His great work "Novum Organum" appeared in 1620. Much pains was taken with this work for it is said that it was copied and corrected twelve times before being given to the world. But shortly after the printing of this work Cook accused the Chancellor of taking bribes. He pleaded guilty, was heavily fined and sent to the Tower. But the fine was remitted and he was set free in two days.

The remainder of his life was spent in the country. Some of his time was employed in revising and enlarging his Essays and in composing his other works, some of which were, history of "King Henry VII.," "The New Atlantis," and works relating to Natural History.

He died in 1626. His death was from fever contracted while experimenting in the snow.

### QUOTATIONS FROM BACON.

"He that cannot see well, let him go softly."

"Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man; and, therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not"

"It is not the lie that passeth through the mind, but the lie that sinketh in it, and setteth in it, that doth the hurt."

"Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider."

"Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in privateness and retiring; for ornament is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgment and disposition of business."

"The virtue of prosperity is temperance; the virtue of adversity is fortitude."

"Learning taketh away the wildness, barbarism, and fierceness of men's minds; though a little of it doth rather work a contrary effect."

"A man that hath no virtue in himself ever envieth virtue in others."

"There is no vice which does so cover a man with shame, as to be found false and perfidious; for a lie faces God and shrinks from man."

### Cheerfulness.

Cheerfulness is a medium between levity and gloominess. Addison says he has always preferred cheerfulness to mirth; the latter he considers as an act; the former, as a habit of the mind. Mirth, he says, is short and transient; cheerfulness, fixed and permanent. By cheerfulness we do not mean coarse jokes, constant attempts at fun and wit, loud laughter or any of the other forms of so-called merriment, which pass under the classical name of "lots of fun."

Cheerfulness is a state of moderate joy, a perpetual buoyancy of spirits, a state of mind free from any stain of guilt and which characterizes the mind by a constant brightness and serenity. The value of cheerfulness may be viewed quite comprehensively under the following headings:—First: Its

value to ourselves. Second: Its value to those associated with us.

Persons who are characterized by cheerfulness are ever free in their minds and untroubled in their thoughts; as a consequence, they have perfect control of their powers, their imaginations and their judgments are clear, their temper ever unruffled, whether in society or in solitude; to them the troubles of life are less burdensome and the innumerable gifts of nature more readily appreciated. Under its magic charm, homeliness becomes graceful and winsome, health is promoted and a clearness and vigor imparted to the mind.

Of its influence on others we can judge by considering the pleasure which we ourselves experience in the society of those of our friends who are habitually cheerful. How much they cheer and brighten our lives, and what an influence their agreeable and obliging manners exert in promoting the good humor of those with whom they come in contact. Undoubtedly, some people are naturally of a more cheerful temperment than others, but its cultivation is to a great extent the privilege of all, and is surely a virtue worthy of some effort in order to its acquirement.

### Compensation.

The first thing that suggests itself in the study of our subject is:—What do we understand compensation to mean, and what is its relation or to what does it apply? It means literally the giving weight for weight, that is simply paying for the work done or service rendered and no more; and in the second place it relates to everything in nature, and not only to everything in nature but to everyone of its parts.

Everything in nature is, as it were, divided into two parts, each thing being a half and suggesting another half to make it whole, as motion, rest; spirit, matter. And here the law of compensation applies; if a surplusage is given to one of the parts, it is paid out of a reduction from the other. What is gained in power is lost in time. This same division underlies the nature and

condition of men. Every defect causes an excess, every sweet has its sour. Nature has no monopolies, but all conditions are equalized. A person in a humble position may imagine that power and high position are everything, but the emperor pays dear for his palace. It is the same with genius; he who is great has the responsibility of that greatness.

The law of compensation is seen in the government of nations. If the governor is arbitrary his life is in danger. If the laws are too severe they will not be carried out. But no matter what the state of government, the influence of character remains unaltered. These facts indicate that the universe is represented in every one of its particles, that everything in nature contains all the powers of nature; so also we put our life into every act, and every act rewards itself in two ways; first in the thing, second in the circumstance. This reward of circumstance is called retribution and is seen by the understanding. It is inseparable from the thing, and may not be clearly seen for a considerable length of time, but it will be seen. Every cause has its effect. The effect may not be seen immediately, but we know that it will come. Crime must have its punishment, seed its fruit, and it is impossible to separate the two.

We may imagine we can perform a certain act (one perhaps we would not wish anyone to know of on account of its not being very noble), and that nothing will come of it; in so doing, we forget that the law of nature overrules our action above our will. We may not intend anything, but retribution will surely follow.

A man cannot speak but he judges himself, that is, he reveals himself in his speech, and every opinion he advances reacts on him again. If he speak advisedly, he is strengthened accordingly; if unadvisedly, he is made so much weaker. It is impossible to do wrong without suffering wrong, and it is equally true that it is impossible to do good without receiving good. We thus see that the law of compensation relates to everything in nature.

The soul is not a compensation but a life. Virtue and truth are the influx from it. A man may commit a sin and evade the law, but, in so far as he evades the law

and carries the guilt, his soul ceases to live, and although he may not receive the punishment we think he deserves, this death of the soul makes square the eternal account.

Man's life is a progress. As we do good we are compensated by the growth of the soul, while evil tends to the death of the soul. Nothing can work injury to us but ourselves. All action receives just compensation, and in us lies the power to act.

### A Mild Adventure.

It was on a clear cold night many years ago that this very mild adventure occurred, it was in fact so mild that it wasn't an adventure at all.

They had all gone out but the mother, the maid, and myself. As we were busily occupied with our various employment, all at once, about 10.30, we heard a groan accompanied by a decided rap upon the front door, we all hurried to the door and stood listening intently, for we heard such strange sounds of groaning and scuffling around, that we concluded it was a drunken man and his dog who were asking admission. By this time we were all pretty much worked up to a fever pitch. The maid was stationed at the parlor window, broom in hand to warn the master of the house who were the decidedly peculiar occupants of his front porch, the broom was to be waved wildly so as to attract his attention.

All this time the scuffling around continued and about every five minutes came a decided rap, rap, rap, but the rap was unheeded. Would the master of the house never come? It seemed not, but after an hour's awful suspense we heard the strange visitors descending the steps, we all three rushed to the window, and what do you think we saw, but three dogs with their tails between their legs sneaking down the steps and away out of sight. We reproached ourselves severely for being so inhospitable to such unusual visitors, and resolved that the next time that rap, rap knocked at our door we would investigate before we jumped to such a hasty conclusion.

### Essay on Character.

Character is defined by some as the peculiar qualities of a person or thing. How numerous and marked these peculiarities are in some characters we have noticed; yet I think there is no person, in which, if we search deeply we cannot find something worthy of admiration, while it would be hard to find a character in which we could not discern a flaw.

What a number of characters we become acquainted with, but we never find two exactly similar; each one has its separate qualities, good or bad.

Whom are we to thank for these characters? I think the responsibility rests largely, if not altogether, on our own shoulders. Certainly the circumstances by which some are surrounded are more conducive to the formation of a fine character than those surrounding others. But we ought to exercise such a complete self-control as not to allow every breeze from the outer world to waft us where it wills.

Character differs from reputation, as it is our real worth, while reputation is what others think we are. We should try and attain the highest standard of character possible. What achievements might some have made in life had they only been blessed with strength of character.

Some one has said that the greatness of a country does not depend upon the extent of territories, but upon the character of its people.

What forms character? Living up to the highest ideals of life; being true-souled and clear-brained for "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."

Paley says "that health and sickness, enjoyments, riches and poverty, knowledge and ignorance, power and subjection, liberty and bondage, civilization and barbarity have all their offices and duties, all serve for the formation of character.

Our entire life both in this world and in the world to come, is moulded by our character; according as this is good or bad it will be our destiny. The choice of a fine and noble character, or a selfish and

degraded one rests with ourselves. Infinitely more valuable to us than riches, fame or honor is a good character. Riches may take to themselves wings and fly away; public honor is a most uncertain quantity, but a good character is something that does not come by chance, and having come remains with us. It is never bequeathed to us by a wealthy relative; neither if we possess it can it be stolen away.

During childhood our character begins to form, and the older we grow, the more and more permanent does it become: hence the great necessity of laying in youth a strong and sure foundation.

### Question Answer.

What is meant by a "red letter day?"

What is meant by a "black letter day?"

Why are the Chinese called Celestials?

What were the seven wonders of the Ancient World?

What is the meaning of the phrase "Sub Rosa."

Why is Toronto like a Mountain?

Answers to Questions in Dec. No.

*Contism* was the philosophy of Comte who flourished in the eighteenth century.

Transcendentalism is a re-statement of Idealistic Philosophy.

Scotland is the "Land o'Cakes."

A Sabbath day's journey is a mile.

The Encyclopaedists of France were a group of men who during the eighteenth century associated themselves together for the production of a great work to be the repository of all human knowledge.

A Romancer is one who tell stories of a peculiar sort, in which legend and a weird supernatural enter as a considerable element while a Romanticist is one who adopts or favors a certain style or taste in literary

composition—a free subjective taste and style, better understood by contrast of that form and spirit which we call Classic.

Dionysius Exiguus decided that 25th of December should be Christmas Day.

The phrase "Almighty Dollar" was first used by Washington Irving.

Boston is called the "Modern Athens."

Democritus is the laughing philosopher and Heraclitus the weeping philosopher.

Hipparchus divided the day into two portions of twelve hours each.

The twinkling of the stars is due to what is termed in Physics the "Interference of Light." The air, being unequally dense, warm, and moist, in its various strata transmits very irregularly the different colors of which white light is composed. Now one color prevails over the rest, and now another, so that the star appears to alter its hue incessantly. Planets do not twinkle because they shine by reflected light.

By the "Sinews of War" money is meant

The expression "A Roland for an Oliver" originated in mediæval times, and means, "You tell a story and I'll tell as good a one"

The first poetry of any nation was sung and not written, so that no name was attached to it.

Total darkness is not produced when a dense cloud passes between us and the sun because no cloud is so dense but that the rays of light are able to penetrate it.

England was called the "Nations of Shop-Keepers."

### Personals.

Miss Maggie Cunningham has left us to spend a two weeks' holiday at her home in Montreal. We hope to see her return at the end of that time.

Miss Johns who spent but one short term with us has gone to her home in Clinton.

Five of our students who numbered among us before the Xmas. Holidays did

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not return to spend the two last and best terms of the year with us. Their places have been filled by a number of new arrivals. Although we are loathe to part with old friends we are always ready to welcome those coming among us for the first time.

Miss Reeves, our former music teacher, has gone to occupy a situation in the sunny climate of the Southern States.

Miss Baker who recently had charge of the Elocution and Physical Culture Department has severed her connection with us and is now teaching in this city.

We extend a hearty welcome to the new members of Faculty. We hope they will find their work among us interesting, and may their efforts be crowned with the best success.

The girls spent a very enjoyable evening at Senator Sanford's, on the 25th ult.

### Locals.

So?

Peculiar People!

Snake-like curves.

He is a good singer and our language teacher *note* it.

Lament of a little Sophomore in the Cloak Room, time 8.59 a. m.

"Where, oh! where has my little gown gone,  
Oh where, oh where can it be,  
With its skirt cut short and its sleeves cut long  
Oh where, oh where, can it be.

Why should a girl never learn French?  
Because one tongue is enough for any girl.

The girls should speak very reverently of the late Miss B. B.

It was not a college girl who said "Oh, look at that woman with red cheeks in grey."

The senior student says: "I am thankful I am not what other students are—Junio's, Sophomores and Freshmen."

We would advise two of our students to remember that some geological specimens are breakable.

It is gratifying to all who are interested in the progress of the music pupils to know that one young lady practices before breakfast.

A certain young lady about to commence the study of Geology, exclaimed: "Oh, we will have to go to the Gymnasium for our practical work!" It is likely she meant the Museum.

We would advise any young ladies who sleep three in a room, which has only accommodation for two, to have another bed moved in for the comfort of their guest.

The *soup-scene* from *Oliver Twist* was re-enacted last Sunday evening with almost the same results.

The latest designation for the well-known and frequently mentioned landmark of Hamilton—the Mountain—is "The Hills," which is much to the indignation of certain of our loyal students. Now the Mountain is, we have been informed, really about three hundred feet high—not so little to be proud of after all. It is to be regretted it hems the City in so closely on the South, for we fear it may check its progress in that direction.

Once upon an evening dreary,  
When their hearts were sad and weary,  
While they nodded, nearly napping,  
Suddenly there came a cracking  
As of some one quickly packing  
Trunks quite near their bed-room door,  
"Tis some ghost" they muttered, "packing  
Trunks quite near our bed-room door;  
That it is and nothing more."

Then they thought it was the bed-post  
Knocking 'gainst the bed-room wall,  
Or the boards forever cracking  
In the wide and gloomy hall.  
"Oh laws!" they could not help agreeing  
That no living human being  
Ever yet was blessed with seeing  
Ghosts outside the bed-room door;  
This agreed, they shut the door.

Round in bed they quickly turning,  
Both their souls within them burning.  
Soon again they heard a tapping  
Somewhat louder than before;  
"Surely," said they, "surely, 'hat is  
Something at our window sashes,  
Let us see then what there at is,  
And this mystery explore.—  
'Tis the wind and nothing more."

And the flimsy, soft, uncertain  
Rustling of their window curtain  
Thrilled them, filled them with fantastic  
Terrors, never felt before;  
So that now, to still the beating  
Of their hearts, they kept repeating  
Prayers and little bible verses  
Learned in days of yore;  
This they did and nothing more.

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