

MCGILL

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Friday, February 1st, 1884.



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McGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.

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THE LAMP OF HERO.

(From the French of Louise Aclermann.)

When Hero's lover, reckless of the storm,
Each night more hungry for his stealthy bliss,
Swam the swift channel to the trembling form
That waited with a kiss;

A Lamp, with rays that welcomed from afar,
Streamed through the darkness, vigilant and bright,
As though in Hero's some large immortal star
Unveiled its throbbing light.

The scourging billows strove to blind his eyes,
The winds let loose their fury on the air,
And the scared sea-gulls shrieked discordant cries,
Foreboding death's despair:

But from the summit of the lonely tower
The Lamp still streamed above the waters dim,
And the bold swimmer felt redoubled power
Nerve each exhausted limb.

As the dark billows and the winds at strife
Whelmed in their wrath the love sick boy of old,
So, round Humanity the storms of life,
Since Time was born, have roll'd.

But while each lightning flash reveals a tomb
That yawns insatiate for each wretch that cowers,
In the same dangers, and the same dense gloom
The same true Lamp is ours.

Through the dull haze it glimmers, sweet and pale,
The winds and waters struggle, but in vain
In clouds of foam the guiding star to veil,
For still it gleams again.

And we, with faces lifted to the sky,
Filled with fresh hopes, the raging billows cleave,
Faint, but encouraged by the light on high
Our venture to achieve.

Pharos of Love! that in the blackest night
Dost guide our course amid the rocks and shoals,
O Lamp of Hero! fall not with thy light
To cheer our sinking souls!

GEO. MURRAY.

Editorials.

THE *Queen's College Journal* feels very sore at that College being dubbed "denominational," and in a long editorial labours to show that the epithet is, in their case, improperly applied. That they should take this stand, surprises us not a little, after the arguments which Principal Grant has been thundering forth in his recent philippics. We certainly understood him to defend the denominational colleges as such, and, indeed, in the

very same number of the *Journal* there is a report of an address in which he is made to say "that we (the Presbyterians) were forced to build up Queen's at our own expense." In the same address he makes a stirring appeal to his fellow-churchmen. All this makes the contention of the *Journal* appear a little inconsistent, but then, of course, that is a small matter in such an important and heated discussion as the present. It is indignantly asked if the fact of there being more students of a particular denomination at a college is sufficient reason for that college being called "denominational." We wonder if the *Journal* had any real doubt upon this question. If it were to be answered in the affirmative, we should like to know what an "undenominational" college would be. Secondly, it is asked if the fact of there being more professors of a particular denomination renders the college "denominational." This is an equally sensible question with the first. The *Journal* itself points out the absurdity of these questions, and we cannot understand for what object they were brought forward. The Faculty of Arts is one part of Queen's University, so also is the Faculty of Theology, which is in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. If ever there was a denominational University in this world Queen's University is such, and the Faculty of Arts is merely a department of that University. If Queen's is not a denominational University, we should like to know where one is to be found. Does the *Journal* wish to maintain that because in the curriculum of the Arts department there is not laid down a special course in the distinctive doctrines of the Presbyterian Church, the College cannot be called denominational? In that case, we have been living unawares in a blessed state of undenominationalism. Let us no longer make the mistake of calling Victoria, Methodist, and Trinity, Anglican. Have not they among their students, at least half a dozen, who are not Methodists or Episcopalians? All our Universities are undenominational! But we must cry out with D'Arcy McGee, "O sacred inconsistency." How was it that when Principal Grant came on his pilgrimage to Montreal some years ago, he visited the leading members of the Presbyterian community and solicited subscriptions from them on the ground that Queen's was a Presbyterian College, and that as such they ought to support it. It was certainly not a pure desire to advance higher education that led some of our citizens to give large sums of money to Queen's College on the occasions to which we refer. There was a University much nearer home doing, perhaps, just as much for education as the Kingston College, to which these same benefactors could never be prevailed upon to give a cent. It would not have served Dr. Grant's purpose to have claimed that the College was undenominational then, and as we have said, he wisely took the only course which was at all likely to render his visit to this city a financial success, he made denominationalism the text of his begging sermon. The supplies have fallen off in Montreal—a raid must be made upon the public treasury of Ontario. We sincerely hope the attempt will not be successful. Principal Grant has heretofore been so successful in raising funds amongst

his fellow-churchmen that he is not likely to grow faint for want of means. But his sense of justice will not allow University College to receive the money necessary to place it in a position to accommodate the increased number desiring admission to its halls. Dr. Grant is a friend of University College, and he fears that it will never prosper if it benefits itself at the cost of justice. With such highminded arguments do the friends of the denominational colleges endeavour to "put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

LET it be granted that the amount of infectious disease among students this year has been very great. No doubt it is a difficult and thankless task to look after the sanitary surroundings of a number of students who "board round" in the city, yet we fail to see that this difficulty exempts the authorities from all responsibility in the matter. Did the students live in residence the authorities would be directly responsible for any cases of contagious disease which might occur, and making all due allowance for the present circumstances, it certainly seems that some measure of responsibility should attach to them in the matter of seeing that the students live in boarding houses where they will have a reasonable prospect of finishing the session upon the same side of the grave as that upon which they began it. Why should all responsibility in this matter end because it is not found feasible at present to provide a residence for the students? Would it not be well to do now what can be done while waiting for the happy time when it will be found possible to have a residence? That any boarding-house keeper should be allowed to receive a student without a tolerably recent certificate of the house being in a fair sanitary condition, is an idea which would seem utterly absurd were it not so common that no one thinks about it at all. In a College where in other matters the student is treated to so much paternal government, it seems a little odd and rather antithetical that he should be considered skilled in matters sanitary, and, to use a well-known phrase, be presumed to be "a good judge of bad boarding-houses." It is hard to see why the responsibility of the authorities should end so abruptly. This disagreeable question is a very difficult one to evade, and so far it has been simply ignored. Surely it would be wise to impart a little more than the usual information to the student seeking a boarding-house, perhaps for the first time and in a strange city. If the drains, for instance, are bad, and there is a good chance of typhoid, could not this be specially mentioned in the boarding-house list! The enthusiastic professor of hygiene could hardly find a more pleasant or profitable task for the class than to practically investigate the sanitary condition of the students' boarding-houses. The undertaking would not be without a certain element of excitement, inasmuch as they would, in all probability, get themselves into hot water literally, as well as figuratively, when the landladies discovered the purport of their mission. We think it our duty to call attention to the seriousness of this question, and to express a hope that something will be done to palliate what cannot, at present, be effectually cured.

WITH the limited means at the disposal of the Governors it would be like crying for the moon to press them at present to build us a residence, so we will say nothing on that head. But the Governors have it in their power, at any rate, to provide the next best thing, a dining-hall. The difficulty of obtaining board has never been so great as this year, and many

of the students are forced to get their meals at long distances from their lodgings. This is an especial hardship to students in the Faculties of Medicine and Applied Science, some of whom have but a single hour at noon, and are unable to get their dinner without going down town for it. The remedy for this state of things can be easily applied. The great majority of the students would welcome and cordially support any attempt to establish a dining-hall. Such an institution would certainly pay its way, and, if carefully managed, might become a source of revenue to the University. The only question that remains is that of providing a suitable building. Fortunately this can be easily settled. The part of the east wing now occupied by the Bursar—it really is not absolutely necessary to the welfare of the College that the Bursar should reside on the premises—would suit the purpose capitally. It has the advantage of being in the College, and is sufficiently large for the purpose. It is too late, of course, to accomplish anything this session; but, as the University machinery is proverbially slow of movement, the chances are that, if it is started now, the dining-hall will be a thing established by next September.

PROFESSOR NORTON, of Harvard, is trying the experiment of making the rank of his students depend partly upon the merits of theses written by them on topics connected with their course. This is an excellent idea, and one we hope to see adopted at some not far distant day in our own University. The evils of the present system of ranking entirely according to the results of written examinations have been deplored for many years, but it has seemed as if human ingenuity, usually so fertile in expedients, is unable to discover any means by which these evils might be overcome. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that we hail this departure of Professor Norton. It will certainly do away, to a great degree, with the pernicious system of cramming, whose effects upon the mind are so injurious. Moreover, it will tend to place ready and slow students upon a more equal footing than hitherto; while, at the same time, all will be forced to direct more attention to the study of their own language and of the power of expression. These things are too generally neglected in McGill. The only course, in which essays are demanded from students, is the one on Philosophy, and even there the mistake is made of not offering any reward for excellence. Student nature is very similar to the nature of older men—only more impatient; and, although the students studying Philosophy recognise in theory the benefits to be gained from painstaking writing, yet in practice the majority ignore them. The essays have to be written, and will be carefully corrected. This the student knows, but, at the same time, it is his belief that his rank will be decided not, even in the slightest degree, by the merits of his essays. The consequence is that, though he usually feels some pang of compunction, he gets into the habit of carelessly scribbling a few pages upon the topic which first occurs to him, or sometimes he will even copy a portion of his notes. Of course, this is not true of all the students—perhaps not of the majority. If, however, the standing of the students depended altogether, or in part upon these essays, much more care and study would be expended upon their preparation. But Philosophy is not the only department in which thesis writing could be made the criterion upon which to award honors and prizes. In English, in History, and in Natural Science, this test could be used with advantage, even in conjunction with the present system.

This plan may not commend itself to all minds, but, when the drawbacks to the present system are considered, it is surely not demanding too much to ask that at least a trial should be given to it.

We are sure that we are only expressing the opinion of the majority of the students when we say that the Medical students who took part in the recent demonstrations against the Lecturer in botany, owed that gentleman some apology for their conduct. Such disturbances as took place in the beginning we know are liable to occur now and again, but if the gentlemen who led the subsequent attacks had reflected on the matter, we feel sure they would not have carried the affair so far as they did. It ought to have been remembered that the gentleman with whom the unpleasantness arose, is a comparative stranger amongst us, and that, therefore, he deserved an amount of consideration which a more experienced professor might not, perhaps, be so well entitled to claim. The effect, too, which such an occurrence has upon the minds of the friends of the University among the general public, is not very desirable. People imperfectly acquainted with the facts, are apt to construe matters in an exaggerated way which is detrimental to the interests of the University, and to the reputation of the students. We are glad to know that all unpleasantness has now disappeared, and we hope that the whole incident will soon pass out of the memory both of the students and professors.

THERE was one feature about the disturbances which we consider highly objectionable. We refer to the way in which reporters of the Daily Press were allowed to meddle in the matter. We are surprised at professors not seeing the impropriety of letting themselves be interviewed with reference to matters which affect the students and authorities alone, and which ought not to become material for the ubiquitous news-monger to form his items out of. In this way what is often in reality a very small affair is exaggerated into revolutionary proportions, and a bad name is given by ignorant people on no adequate grounds. In future, we hope that all will act on that time-honored admonition not to tell tales out of school.

Contributions.

STUDENT LIFE IN GERMANY.

II.

The leading feature of student life in Germany is the existence of a large number of clubs or societies which are principally for the purpose of promoting social intercourse among the students, but which frequently have other aims in view as well. There are never any dormitories in German Universities, professors and students lodging with the townspeople in the neighborhood of the buildings in which the lectures are held, and as these lodgings are usually remarkably circumscribed in their dimensions, the students are forced to seek each other's society elsewhere. Hence, nearly every student belongs to his club, which has its room in some restaurant, from which strangers are rigidly excluded, and where the members meet night after night to drink weak beer and sing student songs. Students very rarely have their meals where they lodge. They take their morning coffee there, but almost invariably dine at cheap restaurants where they can get what satisfies them for about twenty cents. Very often they dine with their club, getting it a trifle cheaper in that way. A very common allowance for a student is twenty-five dollars a month, out of which he must pay for everything including his fees. Taking into consideration that things are dearer there than in Canada, it will be seen

that life is not easy under such circumstances. They stint themselves, as a rule, in very many ways, in order to have money enough for beer. Beer costs from four to six cents per glass, and the amount they give out in this way is very large in proportion to their allowance. But were it not for beer, the student's life would be dull indeed, for it acts as a medium of communication between them, and is absolutely one of the necessities of life according to their ideas. It is worthy of remark here, that in Germany every body pays for himself. There is no such thing as "standing treat." Even guests at a club sometimes pay for what they drink.

Besides merely social clubs, there are many others, notably those called "Corps," which combine social intercourse with as much blood as possible, being bound by their rules to keep up the practice of duelling. At every University there is also a "Turnverein," or gymnastic club which patronizes the gymnasium and upholds fencing with the sabre. Then there is at least one singing club, and of late years, a club for the purpose of opposing duelling is usually to be found. There are no clubs for the promotion of out-door sports. Cricket and football are only known by name, and, as yet, rowing has made but little progress towards finding favour in the eyes of the Germans. They have one out-door game which may be recommended on account of its simplicity, but for no other reason. It is frequently played by the gymnastic society, and this is done as follows:—Sides are chosen and assembled opposite each other and about twenty yards apart. A large leather ball, stuffed with hair, is tossed from one side to the other, and it is the object of each side to catch the same when thrown across the intervening space. If it touches the ground, the side which threw gains a point. Considering that the ball is larger than a football, the extreme difficulty of catching it can be imagined.

On particular evenings, members of a club are allowed to bring their friends to the club room, or the "Kneipe," as it is called, and a visit of this sort is interesting to a stranger. On arriving, everybody present comes forward and introduces himself with a low bow and much gravity, and strangers are usually treated very well, except that they are expected to pay for what they drink. The rooms are always decorated with the mottoes and crest of the club, besides swords, drinking horns, &c. Everybody present must drink and usually in pretty considerable quantities. There are, of course, duly elected officers to each club, and one of these takes the chair. Songs are sung out of the books belonging to the club, the chairman determining, in every case, what shall be sung, and all singing together. Solos are very seldom heard, for though the songs are beautiful and far surpass ours both as regards words and music, the voices are seldom good. In the early part of the evening the chairman is usually able to keep order, but towards the end, and often on the way home, the uproar is tremendous, and many go round from one "Kneipe" to another till they finally get home somehow or other, and do not appear at lectures next day.

Every Verein celebrates once a year the date of its foundation, or, as they call it, their "Stiftungsfest," and this is always a time of great rejoicing. I had the good fortune to be invited to assist at several such, notably that of the Turnverein at the University of Greifswald. This club was one of the largest in the University, numbering some fifty members out of about eight hundred students. The festivities lasted two days, Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday afternoon I was present at the beginning of the affair in the gymnasium, where an exhibition of gymnastics, under the superintendance of the Turnlehrer, was given. There were a number of professors present as spectators, and delegates from nearly all the University gymnastic clubs in Germany, but not a student from Greifswald who did not belong to the Turnverein. Some of the delegates took part in the proceedings, and I was urged to take off my coat and show what an American could do, which honour I declined for good and sufficient reasons. Some calisthenic exercises were first gone through, the members standing in long lines and making various movements with their arms and legs, finally combining several, and

singing a chorus at the same time. Then each class marched off separately to the different apparatuses under the command of its leader, or "Vorturner," as he is called, who ordered those under him round in a manner that would not be submitted to by Americans or English. The exercises gone through differed considerably from those in vogue in this country. Those performed on the horizontal bar were somewhat similar, but those done on the parallel bars were not at all the same, being apparently less calculated to develop the muscles, but more showy. The vaulting horse was very much used, and a good deal of jumping was done, this latter always from a little spring-board. None of the feats performed were remarkable, except those executed by the president, who pulled himself up to his chin first on one arm and then on the other, four or five times running. The proceedings were closed by a general set-to, first with light swords, and then with sabres, and a duel between a guest from Breslau and a noted local fencer, resulting in a walk-over for the Greifswolder. On the evening of the same day a great drinking bout, or "Festcommers" was held in a large hall hired for the occasion. It was handsomely decorated, and had a series of long tables of the roughest description in it. Near the entrance were standing the officers of the society in full evening dress, with little round caps, about six inches in diameter, placed on the front part of the head and a little on one side, broad sashes of silk from the right shoulder across the chest, swords with fancy hilts, and large white fencing gloves. The sashes and caps were white and red, the colors of the society, and altogether these officials looked quite picturesque, and unlike anything to be seen in America. They addressed all strangers who entered, touching their caps in the military fashion, and mentioning their names as a polite intimation that you should also do so, and state who had invited you. At about eight o'clock, all having arrived, the officers took their places at the ends of the tables, and beer was served all round without delay. There were about one hundred and twenty present, including the majority of the professors. After a little the proceedings were formally opened by the president and vice-presidents rising, striking the tables with their swords and calling out "Silentium!" Then the president made a speech welcoming the guests, which was well delivered, of course, for every German can speak in public without any display of bashfulness, and with a natural fluency which is astonishing to a stranger. Then followed a song, the first on the printed programme with which each person was supplied. Many of the songs had been written for the occasion and were sung to popular airs. A very fair orchestra helped matters a good deal. Then the president rose, and after more striking of the tables with swords, silence was demanded for the delegate from Heidelberg, who forthwith arose, made a very short speech, and asked permission to drink the health of the Greifswolder Turnverein. This being accorded by the president, he poured half a liter of beer into his stomach and sat down. In a like manner each delegate was called upon and responded to the call. Many other toasts were drunk, notably that of the Chancellor of the University, who made an excellent and telling speech, and that of the Turnlehrer, who is known all over Germany as being one of the best fencers in the land. It was nearly four a. m. when the last student left the hall and tried to get home. The student I sat next to had seen the bottom of his glass twenty-three times, and I left him to spend the night on his doorstep, after having tried in vain to rouse his landlady. The next day's festivities consisted in an excursion on a steamer chartered for the occasion to an island in the Baltic sea, some ten miles from Greifswold. Here the whole party loitered round the park till dinner time, when all sat down in an old hall belonging to the duke who owns the island, and partook of an extremely meagre repast for which each man paid one mark. Then came another interval, and then tables were set out under the trees in the park, and another "Commers" was held. It much resembled the one I have just described, but was much less orderly. The chairman and officers soon lost all control over the rest, and a scene of the wildest hilarity ensued. There were usually two or three songs and a couple of speeches going on at the same time.

Everybody's health was drunk, and that is always done with peculiar honors at students' meetings. Usually the president announces that they will now drink a "salamander" in honour of somebody or something and then calls out "*Ad exercitium Salamandri, Eins, Zwei, Drei!*" At the last word everybody, standing up, drinks. Then again the president gives the word, *Eins, Zwei, Drei*, and every glass is set down and rattled on the table till he again gives the word of command, and then every one sets his glass down with a bang. There are any number of rules with regard to the drinking of beer in society, which must be strictly adhered to if one does not wish to give offence, and strangers are very apt to get a trifle mixed with regard to them, especially towards the end of an evening. The Commers on the island was finally broken up by the president, who was one of the few sober men at six p. m., and after a great deal of difficulty, all were got safely on board the steamer. Needless to say no member of the Turnverein was to be seen attending lectures for several days after. Nor did the affair end in peace. One of the delegates had a difference of opinion with an outsider, and the difficulty was settled with swords on the following day, the guest getting badly hurt. Beer is one great characteristic of German student life, and duelling is another of which I shall speak at some future time.

W. T. S.,

B. A. Sc. '80.

THE STUDY OF HISTORY.

II.

In a previous number of *The Gazette* I dwelt on the importance of history as a branch of study, on the proper objects of the pursuit, and of the various methods of treating it adopted by the chronicler, by the didactic historian, and by the philosopher. Arriving at the conclusion that a combination of these methods would best promote the success of the historical student, I was led to enquire whether an inductive investigation, suggested by correspondence of dates, might not enable us to inform the dry details of chronological narrative with the spirit of symmetry and of system, and thus to connect the lower elements of history with its nobler truths and deeper lessons. From an examination of the leading events in modern history, and more especially in that of Britain for many centuries, we were led to note a very memorable and suggestive recurrence of important epochs towards the close of successive periods, and to remark that those epochs had been generally regarded as days of intellectual light and social progress. On a similar comparative view of the periods near the middle of these respective centuries, a general correspondence in certain very different characteristics seemed to present itself, such periods having usually been marked by the gloomier phenomena of history. Making due allowance for the temporary influence exercised by vigorous rulers, and for the opposite tendencies of feebler governments—allowing also for the various modifying results of national character, political or religious institutions, and untoward circumstances—we observed that for many ages the nations had passed, with a steadiness of recurrence approaching to constancy, through such cycles of transition, and that apparent exceptions, when closely examined, seemed to confirm rather than contradict the general rule. Those wars and revolutions which have attended the closing years of one century or the opening years of another, were found to have been connected with struggles for advancement, as they were dignified by displays of human originality and power; while, on the other hand, the events of the period intervening have stained the page of history with the repulsive hues of civil conflict, or darkened it with the sickly shades of scepticism and factions zeal. This impression seems to be justified even by the comparison of a favourable case of the one kind with an unfavourable instance of the other. The days of the Commonwealth in England, about the middle of the seventeenth century, have much of the interest attaching to heroism, genius, and lofty patriotism; yet their glory did not endure; and the struggles and triumphs which distinguished them, however memorable and important in the history of the country, left but a slight

mark on her institutions and laws. Their value was negative or relative, rather than direct or positive. On the other hand, the French Revolution, with all those associations of blood and terror which its name suggests, was something more than the long-delayed vengeance of a nation on dignities become corrupt and *effete*, more than the product of scepticism and ignorance, brought into conflict with superstition and despotism. It was constructive as well as destructive; and the excesses of some of its agents and instruments should not blind us to the salutary, enlightened, and still enduring character of its earlier legislation. Thus may the productions and institutions of even the noblest periods be found incapable of satisfying the wants of a later generation, for some taint of imperfection will be found to cleave to all of them.

In those facts of history which have been already referred to, and of which the symmetrical arrangement has obtruded itself on our attention, we now seem also to trace the workings of this law of human nature. Periods of hope and enthusiastic striving have blossomed into high attainment, to be followed by times of questioning and testing, often with such results as discord, division, and the dissolution of institutions once revered and prized; and this because, in every effort either wholly or partially human, some elements of error and weakness have hitherto found a place. So, that season of reflection and criticism which inevitably succeeds the days of ardour and productiveness, ever finds something, perhaps many things, to correct or eliminate. With societies of men, even more than in the case of individuals, such a season must be in various respects one of trial. Established institutions are challenged and confirmed customs interfered with, existing interests compromised, until, as the growing sense of what is defective comes to be more and more confronted with the opposing unwillingness to surrender what has been already acquired, the occasions of conflict become multiplied, and the disposition to resort to extremities tends to increase. At last, the bounds of resistance are broken; the battle, often fierce, prolonged, and for some time dubious, has to be fought out; and out of the wreck which it leaves behind, there comes to be formed some new combination of the old materials—some solid outward unity, animated by new-born hopes and ideas. In another form, with many differences, the cycle repeats itself, and wise men feel, as Goethe felt on the battle-field of Valmy, that a new age has begun.

For the illustration of this process, at once of thought and action, in the more civilized societies, we can appeal to the more memorable centuries. Let us take the sixteenth. The middle of its predecessor had been marked by conflicts, religious as well as political; and these struggles had seemed to be decided in favour of those reactionary tendencies, in the direction of royal prerogative and renewed religious uniformity, of which the earlier years of the fifteenth century had given foretaste. Yet, at the very time when despotism, well-nigh personified in Louis XI., Edward IV., of England, and the Borgias in Italy, with some of their compeers, had apparently obtained a firm hold of Europe, there were witnessed some evidences that the triumph of authority, now perverted into tyranny, was not to prove complete or final. The principle of individual responsibility, demanding opportunities of free enquiry, seemed awhile to have been crushed under the weight of priestly authority, aided by the force of arbitrary power. Yet in various parts of Europe it began at that hour to revive, elastic as before, but purified from that crude extravagance, attendant on the ignorance of the darker ages, which had mingled with and marred some of its earlier manifestations. It rose again, to struggle and suffer indeed, but this time on the whole to prevail,—to win more lasting conquests in a world now prepared by Providence to be the fitting theatre for its nobler, because better regulated exercises.

In this instance, the grand moving ideas of that approaching age were heralded by a train of concurrent circumstances worthy of their divine origin and of their world-wide importance. The simultaneous occurrence of great physical discoveries, momentous political changes, and a surprising literary revival, has not escaped the attention of even commonplace historians; but the thoughtful and reverent mind cannot fail to note, as truly indi-

cative of the forth-putting of a divine finger, the preparation afforded by all these events for the growth and success of a secret, but spiritual, and therefore all-powerful principle. A candid view of the state of morality, private as well as public, in the age immediately preceding the Reformation, would, we cannot help thinking, render this opinion regarding the source and significance of the great movement unavoidable.

But the middle of this eventful century, fertile in political changes, brought also discord and division among the ranks of even the enlightened advocates of liberty. When success had partially diminished the early warmth of the reformers, the drawbacks and difficulties of the new position began to reveal themselves. The gains acquired at such cost were re-examined and analyzed; divergence in the opposite direction of progress and conservatism quickly followed; whilst the ideas of authority and restraint profited by their mutual recriminations. Still, however, the vast force of the original impulse, spreading throughout the various ranks of European society, carried the new ideas triumphantly over all opposition in the lands of their birth; nay, seemed likely also to establish their supremacy even in regions where blind submission to authority had long been the rule.

At this very time, however, the indications of a counter-movement, necessitated, it may be, by the very success of the Reformation, began to array themselves over the whole field of victory. The principle of authority, destined to prevail in the succeeding century, may now be traced in tendencies that wrought beneath or amidst the manifestations of free thought in the sixteenth.

Thus, the seventeenth century, like the fifteenth, proved to be a contrast to its predecessor. Its ruling idea was that of authority, either in its beneficial aspect as law, or regulated restraint, or in its perversions, such as fantastic loyalty, ritualistic sacerdotalism and superstitious zeal. When these tendencies came into collision with the lately dominant spirit of freedom, a fierce and lasting struggle ensued; and this struggle was nearly co-extensive with the field of civilization. On the whole, the victory seemed to be on the side of authority, even in its more rampant forms.

Before the century came to its close, the English Revolution had sounded the knell of irresponsible authority; and liberty, in its purified forms of toleration and constitutionalism, had announced a new and far-extending reign under William III. The eighteenth century has, in our own days, been subjected to hearty and unsparring censure. Notwithstanding the popularity of such a judgment, which, as proceeding from the men of the age closely following, can scarcely claim the merit of impartiality, it may be confidently stated that the last century fulfilled the promise of its introduction, proving favourable, in the main, to real progress, and not entirely betraying its somewhat complacent claims to enlightenment. It has been stigmatised, on plausible grounds, as materialistic and sceptical, yet it may well be asked whether these tendencies were not partly the legacy of a preceding age, and partly the accidental consequences of increasing tolerance in conjunction with the pacific, prosperous operation of constitutional government.

Our readers may have observed that, for a long time, according to our induction, the prevailing tendencies of the centuries have been alternately in favour of liberty and authority. The statement might be supported by the admissions of writers deservedly honoured as master historians, though we have not observed this alternative character recognized by any of them. By studying the whole historical literature for themselves, attentive students may find further confirmation of "his very singular fact. Thus they may note the dominant "Cæsarism" of the first century, following an age of democratic license. In the provincial enfranchisement of Trajan, Adrian, and the Antonines, they may trace a more liberal spirit presiding over the destinies of the second. The third was the age of military despotism, while the fourth, on the other hand, saw the triumph of Christianity and the rise of the northern nations. In the fifth, barbarian monarchs assumed the powers of conquered emperors, and the designs of the Papacy first appeared with Leo the Great. The sixth witnessed the rise of distinct nation-

alities in Northern Europe; which token of freedom gave place, in the seventh, to their submission to Roman usages. The eighth century was marked by "new administration" of the Eastern Empire, under Leo the Iconoclast, and the revival of puissant Northern life by Charles Martel and the Lombard Kings; the ninth, by the establishment of a world-empire under Charlemagne. The tenth was introduced in England by the national work of Alfred and his successors, while Germany also detached itself from the Carolingian Empire, and France began to acquire a national character under the Counts of Paris. The eleventh century saw Imperialism revive, to battle awhile with its spiritual rival in the person of Hildebrand. In the twelfth the genius of Teutonic Europe, striving earnestly after great results, found work for itself in the Crusades, and expression for its finer powers in Gothic architecture; while elsewhere the kindred phenomena of lyric poetry, reforming tendencies in the Church, and civic patriotism in Italy, proved that the free energy of Europe was reviving. The thirteenth century brought an Innocent III. to dominate the Church and terrify the world; mighty kings arose in the leading nations, and Aristotle became supreme in the schools. The next was the period of Swiss, Scottish and Belgian freedom; of Wycliff's attack on superstition; of the resistance to the Papacy by the nations; of Dante, Petrarch and Chaucer.

Of the later centuries we have already spoken. Let us consider whether any reason can be found for the striking intervention of this element of time in the process of repetition which we have pointed out, and which, in its essential nature, we have seen cause to ascribe partly to the course of human thought in a world full of imperfection, partly to such concurrence of events as compels us to acknowledge Providential interference. Luther compared the progress of society to that of a drunken man, proceeding by a compensation of erratic movements. There is wisdom in the homely comparison, but we prefer to think of alternating waves of advance and retrogression in a flowing tide, and deeper suggestions may be found in the prophetic image of those mighty wheels or circles, so complex, yet so harmonious, which even in a season of corruption and danger were chosen to illustrate the mysterious, yet not wholly secret regulation of the universe.

SHAKESPEARE'S HUMOUR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO "THE WINTER'S TALE."

The comedies of Shakespeare refuse to be tabulated in deference to any method of classification deserving to be called precise—and several of them are comedies only according to a purely technical use of the term. The comic interest of his plays generally appears as a supplement to the main action in the shape of a bye or under plot, or, if it asserts itself to the reader or spectator as supreme, it is still of its nature incidental to the progress of the action, for it seems a just criticism that of all Shakespeare's comedies but one is in both design and effect a comedy of character proper. This single exception, I need scarcely say, is the "Merry Wives of Windsor," Shakespeare's only play of contemporary manners and direct sketch of middle class English life, a play that is only merry, in which there is no pathos and little plot, and which is dependent for success upon comical and well-constructed situations.

The "Winter's Tale" by its title seems to invite comparison and contrast with that other comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Both contain circumstances unreal and fantastic so artfully interwoven with the tale as no longer to seem improbable—the one a fairy tale, carrying us away to some enchanted land, where the air is purer and the skies are larger than in our world, where the stars are close above our heads and where the flowers harbour visible spirits—elfs and arisels clinging to the branches, and dazzling fire-fies tangled in the meadow grass beneath our feet; the other a sadder tale (a sad tale's best for winter, Mamilius tells us), a goblin story of dark suspicion, that, like the escaped genius of the Arabian nights, rises from the little bottle in which he has been imprisoned, in the shape of a thin smoke, which finally assumes gigantic proportions and towers to the skies—a tale (as one of Shakespeare's commentators remarks) told to a circle of poetically disposed listeners,

gathered around the flickering fireside of a peaceful, happy home, on a weird winter's night, while the atmosphere of the joyous assembly mixes with the terrors of the adventures narrated, and with the cold, dismal night." But though the picture presented to us in the "Winter's Tale" is in the main a sad one, it does not leave upon our minds a sad impression. It is relieved by the happy termination of the plot, by the reconciliation of Leontes and Hermione, by the young loves of Florizel and Perdita, and by the merry underplot in which Autolyus plays first fiddle. It is to this merry underplot, and to underplots of a similar character in other plays that I wish to draw attention, endeavoring to find out in what consists that pleasant mirthfulness of the poet so that we can say of him, as Rosaline of Biron:—

A merrier man
Within the limit of becoming mirth,
I never spent an hour's talk withal.

On reflection, however, this task appears rather difficult. Wit and humour are too ephemeral and evanescent to bear analysis. A joke ceases to be a joke as soon as you attempt to dissect it. Laughter is proverbially contagious, and it is often the laughing spirit that carries us on amusing us in spite of ourselves, in spite, indeed, of our decided feeling that really there is nothing to laugh at. We English are assuredly a humorous race, more humorous in all likelihood than any other—this is shown, not only in Shakespeare, Chaucer, Butler, Sterne, Dickens, but in all the incidents of our country and city life, in the quaint colloquy and light chaff of the market place and way side. Merry England is an ancient phrase, and everywhere in Merry England is found a joyous, ever-bubbling humour, inextinguishable by poverty and toil. It is by his ready recognition of this fact that Shakespeare excels as a humorist. He found his characters ready formed by nature, living and acting their parts in the world before his eyes, and with masterful skill he transformed them and reproduced them in his plays. In the old, forgotten coaching days, the days of highwaymen and Court clowns, there was wonderful humour at the wayside inns. Autolyus and Sam Waller were possible then—but in these days of railways and telegraphs, a railway porter has no time to be humorous, and Autolyus, for his first offence, finds himself sent down for six months. Shakespeare, therefore, so far at least as his comic characters are concerned, may be said to have been happy in the times that created them. Keen to see and seize the humorous aspects of affairs, he had also that deeper humour which creates character. There are two tests on the very surface of the true poet. If he describes a scene, you see it; if he describes a man, you know him. Shakespeare's fun grows out of his masterful knowledge of the world, of men and women. In a play of his (as in Romeo and Juliet, for example), you seem in some city of chivalry and romance, where the great knight passes to deeds of high emprise, and the lovely lady smiles upon him from her balcony, and the troubadour sings of the "Lord of Oe and ho," and all the while you hear the chaffer of the market place, the chatter of the street gossips and the insignificant laughter of the loitering louts. Should we, therefore, be asked to express the greatest debt of the drama to Shakespeare, whether in the tragic or comic art, we should do it by the single word, characterization. Passing from generalization to what may be called the stock in trade of the comic poet, the means, natural and artificial, by which he contrives to call forth our merriment and laughter, it would be both curious and interesting to ascertain how far Shakespeare adopts and how far he rejects the subjects of laughter that have been turned to good account by other humorists.

There are many kinds of laughter—laughter hideous and contemptible, ay, and even pathetic. Ruin and cynicism, and scorn and spite have their hyena laugh—but it differs wholly from the pleasant laughter of the man to whom the world brings always joyous impulses. On so wide a subject I can do no more than throw out a few suggestions as they occur to me, leaving it for my readers to supplement them from their own reflections, and in endeavouring to do this, I am inclined to include in the category of humorous poets, only

those who do not violate the following canon:—That man being the only animal that laughs and reasons, the connection between reason and ridicule seems to be very close, and the faculty of laughter seems superadded to our constitution to keep absurdity within bounds, and to lead us to look at the unavoidable follies of each other with good humoured sympathy rather than scornful disgust. From which it would follow as a sort of corollary that there can be no legitimate subject of laughter where the feelings or rightful interests of others are seriously wounded or assailed. Tested by this canon, Shakespeare's good taste seems to have rejected two kinds of ridicule.

- (1.) That which owes its point to caricature and burlesque.
- (2.) That which owes its point to coarseness and indecency.

The burlesquing of religion and religious superstition has always been a capital resource of the comic poets. If we in the Nineteenth century can find any amusement whatever in Byron's travesties of Olympus, how exquisitely absurd to an Athenian mob, in the days of Aristophanes, must have been the figure of Prometheus under an umbrella, Hercules, the glutton, Bacchus the young fop, and Iris, the soubrette. But can we feel equally sure that these caricatures were not a grave stumbling-block to the more sober-minded. From such caricature Shakespeare is free—not though he had not the cloth to restrain him, would he have indulged in Tom Ingoldsby's loud laughter against the vulgar idea of demons and saints and that ineffable fiend with horns and tail and hoof, whom Cuvier ruthlessly dismissed as a gannivorous animal. Take that boisterous scene of a group of demons at dinner:—

Few ate more hearty
Than Madame Astarte,
And Hecate considered the belle of the party.

Here's Lucifer lying blind drunk with Scotch ale,
While Beelzebub's tying huge knots in his tail.

This, no doubt, is pure burlesque without intentional irreverence, but at the time, when it was written, to the old-fashioned and fastidious it would scarcely appear so.

In Shakespeare, again, we have no coarseness or indelicacy, save such as is the inevitable outgrowth of the plainness of his age. He, however, never trades upon it nor passes it off for wit. To use his own word, he has love songs without bawdry, which is strange; but what he has not, is that unblushing indecency that was soon to spread over Court and capital and stage, establishing its dominion over the dramatic decameron of the Restoration, corrupting the manners and with them the morals of the dramatist, and forbidding them, at the risk of seeming dull, to be anything but improper. Had Shakespeare lived and written in accordance with the dominant reaction against Puritanism, we should probably have possessed an English Aristophanes with a muse too naked to be shamed.

The enjoyment that proceeds from the absurdities of weaklings and fools has always had a recognized place, though not one of a very high order, in the range of merriment. The sight of those who have the beard and body of a man, with the intellect of a baby, produces great mirth and satisfaction to the vulgar mind. It is in this department of the comic that there seems most foundation for the theory of Hobbes that the passion of laughter is nothing else but sudden glory arising from some sudden conception of some eminency in ourselves by comparison with the inferiority of others. Of the innumerable people who have laughed at Lord Dundreary, a large proportion, no doubt, did so with increased heartiness from the comfortable conviction that here was at least one "fellow" to whom they were intellectually superior. I need scarcely point to the clown in the "Winter's Tale" as exhibiting an instance of a similar kind. But there is another and better way in which fools and simpletons become a source of amusement, and that is by the unexpected displays which they sometimes make of wit, spirit and ingenuity, for which one gave them no credit, and in particular by their successful retort upon assailants who had looked upon them as an easy prey. In this, to my mind, lies the zest of the plot in the "Merry Wives of Windsor" that shows the shrewd, witty, but vain Falstaff baffled, mocked, befooled by those country bourgeois wives whom, as a wit and courtier, he pretended to despise, but intended to debauch.

Does Shakespeare ever intentionally perpetrate that witticism known as the Irish bull? I think he does—the essence of the genuine bull seems to consist in an unconscious self-contradiction. An example of a perfect verbal bull is contained in the dictum of the Irish Doctor that sterility is often hereditary. A self-contradiction that has a certain plausibility at first sight, and which I have seen imposed upon a very grave physician who was not Irish. As a counterpart to this I would quote Paulina's amusing absurdity when she prays that the daughter of Leontes may have no jealousy in her composition,

Lest she suspect as he does,
Her children not her husband's.

A very ludicrous class of failures are those of which Mrs. Slip-slop in Joseph Andrews, and Mrs. Malaprop in the Rivals, supply us with the richest and most finished examples. The attempts of ignorant persons to use fine and peculiar words and the unconscious substitution of others bearing a different meaning or character, never fail to amuse. To generalize we may say that every instance of unsuccessful affectation, every assumption of a false character, that is at once detected, every preposterous attempt to shine where excellence is hopeless—all these are fertile sources of entertainment and legitimate objects of ridicule. It is to this principle that we owe those dolts of erudition Sir Nathaniel and Holofernes, that solemn fop, Don Armado, the boorish Costard with his ad dunghill for ad unguem, and the servant in the Winter's Tale with his Saltiers for Satyrs.

Among the instances of ridiculous absurdity in what may be called suicidal statements are those extravagances known as gasconades. In these the speaker wishing to magnify his character or achievements, so rashly overstates his case as to defeat his purpose by becoming incredible—vaunting ambition that o'er-leaps itself and falls on the other side. It seems a favorite style of American wit to push a fact or story to such a degree of exaggeration as to be literally a *reductio ad absurdum*. The comic effect on the stage of the sayings and doings of gasconading cowards is familiar to us by the frequent representation of such characters as in Miles Gloriosus, Bobadil, Falstaff, and ancient Pistol.

And what of that scamp Autolycus? The merry Bohemian that forms the staple of laughter in the "Winter's Tale." As a brain creature I place him side by side with the youngster Moth—that shrewd young rogue—that handful of wit, as Costard calls him, who has purchased his little experience by his penny of observation. For the enjoyment of the fun of both, a certain childish swiftness of gleeful apprehension is required. It does not shine so much in its pure wit as in its overflowing humour, and in the inexhaustible fertility of ludicrous devices by which laughter is excited. Furnivall closes his critique on the play with these words:—"Not only do we see Shakespeare's freshness of spirit in his production of Perdita, but in his creation of Autolycus. That at the close of his dramatic life, after all the troubles he had passed through, Shakespeare had yet the youngness of heart to bubble out wit, this merry rogue, the incarnation of fun and rascality, and let him sail off successful and unharmed is wonderful, and that there is no diminution of his former comic power, is shown, too, in his clown who wants but something to be a reasonable man."

Correspondence.

To the Editors of the MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE.
MCGILL COLLEGE SONG-BOOK.

SIRS,—A mass meeting of the students of all the faculties will be held in Dr. Girdwood's class-room, Medical Building, on Tuesday evening February 12th, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of discussing the advisability of compiling a new collection of songs for the use of students of this college. As there is an absolute and immediate necessity for a song-book, it is earnestly hoped that there will be as large an attendance as possible.

Yours &c.,

W. G. STEWART.

Sporting News.

HOCKEY.

THE McGill Hockey Club, stimulated by the success of last year, has again resolved to compete for the Carnival cup, and judging from their performances so far, will stand a fair chance of winning it.

This manly game has never been in such high favor with the students as it is this year, if one may judge of its popularity from the numbers regularly attending the practices. The club has paid a fitting tribute to the untiring efforts of Mr. J. Roy in its behalf, by electing him President, and he, with the popular Secretary, Mr. S. Ogilvie, are doing all in their power to make this season's play a success.

On Monday evening, 14th inst., the following team met the representatives of the Victoria Club, in the Victoria Rink, viz: Hutchison, (goal); Elder, (point); Ogilvie, (centre); Budden, Craven, Brown, Weir, (field); Elder (who is the only member of last year's team that has yet come forward) acted as captain, *pro tem*. The result of the match was evidently a surprise to everybody but the College men, ending in a victory for McGill by one goal to nothing. The defence of the College team was particularly strong; and it was needed, too, for both Hutchison and Elder had all they could do to stop shot after shot on their goals. Indeed, too much praise cannot be given the former for his cool play in that most trying of all positions (expect an oral exam.)—goal-keeper; while the latter showed that last year's training had not been lost on him. In the field, Budden, Ogilvie and Craven played remarkably well.

On the following Wednesday evening, the same team, with the substitution of Fairbanks and Lesage for Brown and Weir, met the Crystal Club in their rink, when McGill scored an easy victory by two goals to nothing. The game was rather a one-sided affair, consisting chiefly of a series of onslaughts on the Crystal's goals, while poor Hutchison, deserted even by his *fidus achates*, Elder, stood lonely and shivering at his post. Though every man played his best, the change in the team was, in our opinion, no improvement. The club have now under consideration a challenge from the Quebec Hockey Club to play them at Quebec before the Carnival, as they want satisfaction for *not* having won last year.

While on this subject, we would like to ask why the Carnival Committee have seen fit to reduce the number that must constitute a team competing for their cup from nine to seven men? If the contests were to take place in a closed rink, we could understand why seven men should be thought sufficient; but inasmuch as they are to take place, we understand, on the *large* open-air rink on the College grounds, why should not the regular team of nine men be kept? Last year should not be a precedent, for everyone knows that it was only out of deference to Quebec, (who came up with only seven men) that the clubs here consented to reduce their teams by two men. Of course, no one can question the *right* of the Carnival Committee to fix the number that shall constitute a team to compete for their cup; but suppose, for example, they were putting up for competition a Lacrosse trophy, we should all think it rather strange were they arbitrarily to state that "ten men shall constitute a team for such competition."

College World.

MCGILL.
FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

MCINERNEY has been unanimously elected Valedictorian for Class '84.

MEDICALS find it very hard to study in cold weather, and for that matter in any other weather.

Exit Decow, the gay young bachelor, and enter Mr. Decow, the staid and sober benedict. *Sic transit.*

THERE have been several cases of illness among the students lately, a decided preference being shown for typhoid fever.

SYMPTOMS of a religious revival and a crusade of city clergymen among the students. Can it be possible that students have souls to be saved? Do they not in so doing poach upon the preserves of the poor benighted African?

FRESHMEN quiet once more, and their happy circle still unbroken. The whole of the recent difficulty was owing to Professor classifying some of them as exogens, while they desired to be classed as endogens. *Hinc ille lacryma.*

A SLIGHT change has been effected in the heating apparatus of the medical school, rendering some parts of the building warmer—or, to be more accurate—less cold; but the building is still as thoroughly ventilated as ever, and the air of the lecture rooms still contains as much CO₂ as any old saurian of the Secondary Period could desire. We wonder that some enterprising horticulturist does not try to effect an arrangement whereby he might be allowed to use the building as a fernery. A paper upon the spectroscopic appearances of a med's blood at the close of a lecture would be highly instructive.

MCGILL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ON Dec. 15th, Mr. Gooding read a paper upon "Elephantiasis," and exhibited a slide showing the parasite *Filaria*, found in human blood in this disease. Mr. Rowell reported a case, and Mr. W. G. Johnston showed slides of several disease fungi.

ON January 12th Dr. Stewart read a most instructive paper upon the "Neuroses of the Urinary Organs." The attendance was larger than at any previous meeting of the society, and those present fully appreciated the benefits of a paper upon subjects not treated of scientifically in any English text-book extant.

UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE first meeting for this term was held on the 18th ult., when one of the pleasantest evenings in the Society's experience was passed by the members present. Professor Moyle read a humorous and chatty paper, taking as his subject societies such as he was addressing. The pleasantness of the Professor's manner and the style of his paper placed him at once *en rapport* with his audience, and his words were listened to with much appreciation. It must not be supposed, however, that serious truths were altogether passed by in the paper, for such was certainly not the case. We regret that we cannot reproduce the lecture in full, and, at the same time, are conscious that to attempt to give a summary of it could but lead to misapprehension. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered Professor Moyle for his kindness.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE first meeting of this Society after the Christmas holidays was held on the 11th ult. There were fourteen members present, and in the absence of the President, Mr. A. McGoun, took the chair. After routine the following gentlemen were put in nomination as speakers for the public debate: Messrs. R. J. Elliot, A. G. Cross, R. Green Shields, E. W. Arthy, Boodle, J. R. Murray, J. Mackie, P. McKenzie, and F. S. McLennan. On the first ballot Messrs. J. R. Murray and E. W. Arthy were elected, and on a second ballot Messrs. Green Shields and Boodle. Mr. R. J. Elliot was elected Reader. The Chairman then called on Mr. Kavanagh, the leader of the Affirmative, to open the debate, which was on the following subject: "Is belief in the personality of the devil a necessary article of the Christian Faith?" The appointed speakers were:—Affirmative, Messrs. H. J. Kavanagh and E. A. D. Morgan; Negative, Messrs. A. R. Oughtred and C. S. Campbell. Mr. Kavanagh regretted such a subject had been chosen, and after reading a somewhat lengthy explanation moved, seconded by Mr. L. T. Leet, "that this subject is not a fit one for the consideration of this Society and that the debate be adjourned *sine die*." After Messrs. Smith, Cross, Kavanagh, Leet and McGoun had spoken to the motion, it was put to the meeting and lost. Mr. Kavanagh was then called upon to open the debate, but declined, upon which

Mr. J. R. Murray moved, seconded by Mr. A. G. Cross, "that this debate be adjourned till the first night for which there is no programme provided."—Carried. After a motion to reconsider had been put and lost, Mr. Boodle rose to say that he thought the gentlemen appointed to take part in this debate should have sent word if they found themselves unable to do so, and he would give notice that at the next meeting of this Society he would move a vote of censure upon the Corresponding-Secretary and those members who have failed to take the parts assigned to them in the debate of this evening. Mr. Cross was here called upon for a recitation and responded with an extract from Longfellow.

At the meeting on January 18th Mr. Ritchie took the chair. The following report was read by Mr. E. W. Arthy: "The Speakers appointed for the Public Debate have agreed to recommend the following subject, viz.: Ought theatre going to be encouraged? Affirmative, Messrs. E. W. Arthy and J. R. Murray; Negative, Messrs. R. Greenshields and R. W. Boodle. They further recommend that the debate be held upon the 13th February." Mr. Boodle declined to take part in the Public Debate. On motion of Mr. D. Downie the election of another Speaker was arranged for the following Friday. Mr. Boodle then proposed the motion of censure of which he had given a week's notice. Mr. Campbell's excuse of illness was accepted by the meeting, and Mr. Boodle withdraw the name of the Corresponding-Secretary when the motion as amended was carried. The following question was then discussed: "Should Latin and Greek form a necessary part of a College training?" Affirmative, Messrs. E. W. Arthy and E. Lafleur; Negative, Messrs. R. W. Boodle and A. W. Atwater. Messrs. Lafleur and Atwater being absent, Messrs. Elliot and Campbell said a few words in favour of the affirmative. Decision for the affirmative.

At the meeting of the 26th January a new election of Speakers for the Public Debate took place, as those already appointed had resigned for various reasons. The following were elected: Messrs. Arthy, Elliot, F. Hague and J. Mackie; Reader, Mr. R. C. Smith. Mr. Campbell gave notice of a motion to introduce new rules of procedure, which will be considered on the 1st inst. The First Vice-President having taken the chair, the question "Ought the Dominion Senators to be chosen by the Legislatures of the respective Provinces?" was opened by Mr. C. J. Doherty. Mr. Ritchie followed on the negative, and Messrs. C. J. Brooke and A. G. Cross on the affirmative. Decision for the negative.

UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY—PROGRAMME.

Friday, 1st Feb.—*Subject of Debate*.—"Is the Malthusian Theory Sound?" Speakers:—Affirmative, Messrs. S. Cross and R. J. Elliot. Negative, Messrs. A. McGoun, jr. and J. R. Murray.

Friday, 8th Feb.—No Meeting.

Friday, 15th Feb.—*Subject of Debate*.—"Should Toronto University receive additional aid from the Ontario Government?" Speakers:—Affirmative, Messrs. Donald Downie and A. J. Brown. Negative, Messrs. G. B. Mignault and H. J. Duffett.

Friday, 22nd Feb.—Public debate in the Ladies' Ordinary, Windsor Hotel. *Subject*.—Not yet decided. Speakers:—Messrs. E. W. Arthy, R. J. Elliot, J. B. Mackie and F. Hague.

Friday, 29th Feb.—Essay by Mr. C. J. Doherty, President.

The first annual dinner of the Arts students was held in the Richelieu Hotel, on the 23rd of January. This dinner was meant to take the place of the old-time class-dinners, but can scarcely be said to have done so satisfactorily. The members of one year are not sufficiently well acquainted with those of another to allow of the merriment which formerly reigned at the class feasts. Still, as an experiment, this dinner may be pronounced a success. About fifty of the undergraduates assembled and did justice to the good cheer provided, after which toasts, speeches, and songs became the order. As on

similar occasions, the speeches were of various nature; some were humorous, others would-be humorous; some sentimental, and others practical. The songs were good and the drinking—soft drinks—if we may judge by the length of the bill, was deep. The following were the toasts, which were responded to by the gentlemen whose names are coupled with them:—"The Queen, Canada and the Governor-General," W. H. Turner; "United States," A. H. U. Colquhoun; "Alma Mater," W. Patterson; "Sister Universities," A. P. Solandt; "Professors," J. W. Pedley; "Literary Society," E. D. F. Holden; "Theology," W. T. Currie; "Medicine," W. G. Johnston; "Science," C. Trenholme, B.A.; "Law," C. A. Ducloux, B.A.; "McGill Gazette," H. S. McLennan; "Benefactors," F. Pedley; "Sports," R. B. Henderson; "Ladies," A. L. Blackwood. The speeches were interspersed with songs by Messrs. Lochhead, Stewart, Clements, Budden, Baudry and Arnton. The chair was well filled by the president of the third year, Mr. Lochhead, the president of the fourth year being absent.

More accommodation is urgently needed for the books in the library, which are already overflowing the shelves. Various suggestions have been made as to the best means of overcoming this difficulty. One is that cases, such as are now in the middle of alcove 8, might be placed in all the alcoves. This appears to be an objectionable plan, since it would mar the pleasant appearance of the library and would also seriously interfere with the space necessary for convenience in taking and replacing books upon the existing shelves. A better plan would be to put some one division of the books into the room now occupied by the Professor of German, for whom doubtless a room could be found in the main building. The present door of the room could be blocked up and a passage cut from the library, so that those passing in or out would still be under the librarian's eye. The cost of this plan would not be greater than that of the other, since the fittings of the room need not be of such an expensive kind as those in the library.

THE ANNUAL SCIENCE DINNER.

The Science men have dined—not on sandwiches, carried through miles of woods and eaten in primitive style while surrounded by their much-dreaded enemy, the mosquito—but in grand style in the capacious dining-hall of the Richelieu Hotel.

The progress made by the Science Faculty of late years has been so rapid that the events of each session usually excel those of previous ones. The fourth annual dinner, held on the evening of the 15th January, went far to confirm this fact. Never before had so many Science undergraduates gathered around the festive board to spend so merry a time. Mr. J. L. Hislop, who, as President of the Faculty, occupied the chair, seemed to be as much at home at the head of the table as when distinguishing himself in athletic feats on the college campus. Messrs. Trenholme, Watson and Carlyle occupied the vice-chairs. The many excellent dishes, prepared by Mr. Durocher, were partaken of with a relish which showed that roughing it during the vacations does not tend to destroy the appetite. After the *menu* had been fully discussed, the chairman began the intellectual part of the evening's programme by proposing the usual opening toasts of "The Queen" and "The Governor-General." Mr. J. A. M. McCarthy, in replying to the latter, found means to say a word in favour of his much-abused fellow-countrymen. The toast of the "United States" was ably responded to by Mr. J. Roy, who seems to be an admirer, not only of the form of government and enterprise of that vast Republic, but of its ladies as well. Mr. Roy is, we believe, too loyal a Canadian to desire political union, but would not object to another of a more sociable nature. "Our Alma Mater" elicited a feeling address from the Secretary, Mr. C. B. Smith. "Sister Universities" was proposed by Mr. J. Hislop, and responded to by Mr. J. Crossley, late of Oxford, who paid a high compliment to McGill and its several staffs of professors. Mr. J. S. Garneau replied in behalf of the Polytechnic School of Montreal. Mr. S. Pitcher responded to the toast of the "Dean and Professors" in a manner that implied that he had forgiven them for the various heavy tasks which they had imposed upon him. We fancy however, that, while our friend's magnanimity may enable

him to forgive, it will be long ere he forgets the weekly task of solving the long list of problems in Applied Mechanics. Our "Sister Faculties" were ably represented by Messrs. Davis (medicine) and Wright (arts). We regret to state that, owing to some flaw in the wording of the invitation sent to Law, their representative mistook the date. Mr. J. H. Burland, class '82 Science, in replying in behalf of "Our Graduates," showed that his interest in our welfare had not waned. His friendly advice in regard to committee work, and the hope he cherished of seeing the Science Faculty taking the lead in McGill, were well received, but the climax was reached when he announced his intention of giving, as in former years, what is already familiarly known as the "Burland Exhibition." The joyful notes of "For he's a jolly good fellow," which followed, seemed more appropriate and student-like than a staid vote of thanks. "Class '84" was proposed by Mr. C. W. Trenholme in words so friendly and sympathetic that led even the 3rd year to believe that he was not envious. In response to this toast, Mr. J. L. Hislop referred to the individuality of the members of his class, and their widely-differing talents. During the course of the chairman's eloquent address, we were forcibly reminded of the fact that we were about to lose many of our best Scientists. The toasts of "Our Representatives on the Reading-Room Committee," replied to by Mr. H. Hamilton; "Ex-Class Mates," by Mr. J. O'C. Mignault; "Sporting Interests," by Mr. C. W. Trenholme; "The Press," by Mr. S. Fortier, and "The Ladies," by Mr. W. A. Carlyle, were duly honoured. Mr. J. O'C. Mignault made the most humorous speech of the evening in response to the toast of "Ex-Class Mates." The ex-member of the P. W. D. was in a gay mood, and seemed willing to sacrifice a little logic in order to promote mirth.

The musical performances by Messrs. Walters, Ogilvy, Saunders, Crossley, Lesage, and others, were attentively listened to and added much to the evening's entertainment.

After a hearty vote of thanks had been tendered to the members of the committee for the efficiency of their work and the success which had attended it, the convivial brethren brought the meeting to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Between the Lectures.

ANTHROPOLOGIC LABORATORY MOTTO FOR 1883-4.—"For dissectors of the head only."

A QUESTION FOR CHEMISTS.—Could a man found lying drunk in the street be rightly termed an alcoholic precipitate?

AN IRISHMAN being ill, his physician advised him to take a walk on an empty stomach. "Upon whose?" asked the Irishman.

Two farmers saw a couple of dudes on a street in Troy, when one exclaimed: "Gosh! What things we see when we don't have no gun."

"ARE YOU guilty or not guilty?" asked the clerk of arraigns. "An' sure now," says Pat, "what are you put there but to find out?"

AN IRISHMAN who lived in an attic, being asked what part of the house he lived in, answered,— "If the house were turned topsy-turvy, I'd be livin' on the first floor."

ON A BALD HEAD.

My head and I are quits d'ye see,
I first cut him, he now cuts me.

SCIENCE FRESHIE at the Annual Dinner:—"Excusez moi monsieur waitaire ce n'est pas Paté a la Richelieu mais Paté a la Grand Trunk accident, comprenez?" (Faints and is carried out.)

SCENE in dress circle, opera house—Factory maiden (raising her voice for the benefit of the student just behind): "It's thrue I'm tellin' ye, Kathey, I find it extrimely difficult to get over tree pages a day of me Frinch lissan."—*Etc.*

LEGAL.—A learned professor lecturing the other day on marriage obligations, told his class that it was not right to make advances to a married woman when her husband is absent! "What never!" exclaimed one of his hearers. "Well, hardly ever, you'll be robbed if you do," replied the bland lecturer.

"NICK," said Nosey the other day to a dude with knee breeches and an eye glass, "you must be the happiest man in creation." "Why, Nosey?" "Because," said Nosey, "you are in love with yourself, and have not a rival on earth." "Unrivalled," was the laconic rejoinder of the man in hose.

OVER the door of the breakfast room of a boarding-house for students, there hangs the following motto, "Work out thy own Salvation;" at another, "Grow in righteousness through fasting and prayer;" and under another, which I have forgotten, a wag had posted the following notice: "To those who suffer from indigestion, from the fact that they eat nothing to digest, who are too timid to write in the symbolic juice of the pickled beet and in the proper corner, P.P.C., with an estimate of the lbs. and £'s they have lost in this house, I can confidently recommend, if taken judiciously at first—Johnson's Fluid Beef."

ON a Grand Trunk train during the past summer a German, in the employ of an M.D. who had some freight on the train, kindly offered to get some ice for a party of jovial wine-drinking commercial men. When they wanted more the accommodating Teuton went to find it, but returned with the sad announcement:—"Der passage meister will let me haf no more. He says der poly vont keep if I dake any more ice away from id."—*Etc.*

A CONTRAST BETWEEN THE NATURAL AND THE ARTIFICIAL.—An old Scotch ballad begins,

"The sun shines fair on Carlisle wa,"

Perhaps not much poetry in it; but does the artificial school better it in the following!:

"The glorious orb which Phœbus rolls on high
Shines with transcendent lustre in the sky,
And fast and fair the fervid sunbeams fall,
Oh, stately Carlisle! on thine ancient wall."

THE WAIL OF THE WASTE BASKET. BY OUR POETICAL EDITOR.

THE frequent appearance of a protest, or rather an appeal, which the readers of the MCGILL UNIVERSITY GAZETTE may have noticed in the columns of this periodical, is one which, so far from being limited to it, may be seen in the pages of every college paper that ever existed, and is one for an increased expression of interest in the paper as evinced by literary as well as by monetary contributions. That this is an appeal which, to an ambitious minority of our readers, may appear unreasonable, we now for the first time, on examining the contents of the editor's drawer, are painfully aware. "Why," doubtless ask these gentlemen, whose rejected addresses now lie before us, "why are these unfeeling remarks as to the merits, quantitative and qualitative, of the contributions to the GAZETTE thrust so obtrusively on our notice? Have we not sent, full many a time and oft, contributions teeming with the rich fancies of our brains; withheld from a well-deserved fame only by the prejudices of a few editors?" The first of the contributors, who are all poets, is a bard who signs himself G. W. McM. He is, even to a superficial observer, deeply imbued with the spirit of the modern apostles of culture, and has unburdened his weary soul to us in the following fashion:—

Lo! sad-browed night, her star-embowered throne
Leaves slow, and swoons into the arms of day;
The moon's pale orb slants down the purple sky,
Her silver beams thrill all the darkened air,
And glances on the golden groves that skirt
The sheeny radiance of the lake's blue marge,
Whose shoreless distance of Tartaric hue,
Merges the violet mantle of her flood.
With inky pall of hyacinthine night

The writer's fancy is so unfathomable, his intellect of so oceanic a profundity, that it is difficult for criticism of an ordinary depth to sound the abyssal recesses of his soul, whose "unplumb'd, salt, estranging sea," must forever be a barrier between his meaning and his expression of it. Leave we then to higher critic the consideration of a literary gem which the writer in a prefatory introduction has assured us contains the germs of a "poikilo-chromatic synchronism," and to workers in a hitherto unexplored field of science, the investigation of a too all but pre-Raphaelitic inking of a higher stellar chemistry, beyond whose bourne we confess ourselves unable to pass. Noting, therefore, only that in one place he has favoured us with a foretaste of the literary millennium, long

ago foretold, when a plural noun shall lie down with the singular verb, and a little conjunction shall lead them, we will omit the rest of his effusion, and pass on to the consideration of another poem that appears above the signature of P. H. I.:—

The dark clouds hide the sun's gay light,
The leaves have flown; and autumn chill
In icy fetters chains each rill.
In sober garb is Nature's dight.

Sad is the mateless robin's lay,
Sad the soft whispering zephyr's sigh,
Sad is my heart as I pass by,—
The world is drear—can I be gay?

But on a sudden, Phoebus gleams
Through the bare forest's leafless aisles;
Wreathed are the trees in golden smiles,
Unlocked the babble of the streams.

My love who gladdens Nature drear,
Whose red lips shame the ruby's hue,
Whose bright orbs shame the heaven's blue.
My auburn tressed love is here.

When we first read this, and it was certainly hard to read notwithstanding the patchouli-scented note paper and the elaborate monogram on it, we were inclined to rave and tear our hair, but the calmer moments of reflection assured us that there was nothing in the words—for the poem contained no ideas—to arouse any such violent exhibition of our feelings. Such an "aching void" of ideas, so inane a composition it would be hard for the most diligent student of modern lyric writers, such as Aubrey de Vere, C. Tennyson Turner, W. Cosmo-Monkhouse, and others of the inner brotherhood, to produce. We will therefore sum up the substance of this ballad by classifying it as the rapid maudlinings of a fool, who braces up when his red-haired girl comes along, and proceed to set forth in all its ghastly details the following atrocity, perpetrated last week by W.A. de W. It evidently owes a great deal of its form (if it can be said to have any) to the "Salut au Monde" of Walt. Whitman. W.A. de W. says:—

What do you see, W.A. de W.?

I see a great square building.

I see the crowds of students, book-carrying, issuing in—walking in gangs, snowballing at lamposts, upsetting ash-barrels, leering and jeering at girls in the streets, and generally swearing.

I see the gang from the balmy backwoods of cabbage-scented Glengarry, unshaven and bleary, nicotine ruminants all—a few of them carrying note books.

I see one fresh from the country with short but patulous breeches

I see a spring-suited itinerant Banshee, a corruptor of youth, nondescript, never at Fenwick's.

I see a lost photographer.

I see his fellow antediluvians, bereft of their senses by grief; fancying him smitten by disease or perchance devoured by fierce monsters; mourning his loss and destroying his character; seeking him in high and low (mostly low) places, haunting the Morgue and dragging rivers in vain; finally submitting to his fate with a bad grace; still keeping watch for him; then suddenly stumbling against him.

I see the long, lank ghost, lantern-jawed and sepulchral.

I see the long-bodied, short-legged saltator, whose ideas of meum and tuum are rather promiscuous, whose rapacious overcoat pocket full often at Ford's illicitly bulges.

I see next him a long, melancholy individual, with eye of a slaughtered assellus, clad in the latest Newmarket, split-up-behind, but unpaid for.

I see another returning home about sunrise with multiplying eye and unsteady gait, pensively falling on the hospitable breast of the doorstep, and searching in vain for the key-hole.

In vain in the left lower corner of the door that keeps whanging against him.

I see a red-bearded, straw-haired, blue-eyed indigenous youth, cursed with a keen sense of Thackeray's humor.

I see the form of a giant, with a plaintive "Got a cigarette" ever on his lips, comely of feature, but harmless of intellect. The Thames fears no harm from incendiary proceedings on his part.

I see another unfortunate, roped in and led to the haltar. Moaning aloud, "The tradesmen I owe, therefore *Io hymenoe!*"

I see a slender, tan-faced son of the tropics, sluggish of colon, barbaletic.

I see a notorious trio, the three Furies, joined in amorous contact, ever inseparable in brawl and jamboree.

The first of a Saturnine countenance, suspicious, and pendulo-canine of aspect.

The second, the most disreputable, out-at-elbows, flamingo-cephalic—yet generous withal and kindly, thus differing far from the others.

The third with a harsh, high-pitched, rasping voice; with a weakness for other men's rubbers.

His function that of a mouth-piece.

I see a boisterous bullying body of burbling botanical freshmen; bursting open hallowed retreats, singing hymns to a fog horn accompaniment, in their eager pursuit after science.

I see the Star of the East, sole hope of New Brunswick, a whiskered and speech-making Cato.

I see the noble army of Chronics, some of them sparse as to hair (perhaps from much plucking), old friends who have long lingered among us, beloved of Mrs. Smiley.

"Au revoir!" is their motto at spring-time.

Personals.

John Smith, M. D. '79, has left Emerson, Man., and is at present in Portland, Oregon.

B. F. W. Hurdman, M. D. '82, has returned from England, and has begun practice in Inverness, P. Q.

Kenneth MacKenzie, M. D. '81, has been appointed Professor of Anatomy in Willamette University, Portland, Oregon, and Surgeon to St. Vincent's Hospital in the same city.

Walter W. White, B.A. '86 Med. has been elected to fill the vacancy on the staff of the GAZETTE caused by Mr. Porter's departure. No better selection could have been made.

J. J. Collins, B. Ap. Sc. '82, visited the College the other day, and was looking very happy. He was on his wedding tour, having been married recently in Ottawa. Mr. Collins is County Engineer for Renfrew.

D. T. M. R. Salter, M. D. '80, has given up his practice in Dundas, Ont. He purposes taking an extended course in England before settling down. His partner, James Ross, B. A., M. D. '81, continues the practice.

Obituary.

It is with feelings of the greatest regret that we record the death of Mr. A. W. Wilkinson, B. A., who died at the hospital on January 20th from typhoid fever.

Mr. Wilkinson graduated at the University of New Brunswick in '80, at the head of his class, after a brilliant course in which he gained the highest University honors; and, although he had only been connected with McGill for a few months, was looked upon as one of the most promising men of his year.

The remains, which were forwarded to his home in Fredericton, were escorted to the Bonaventure depot by the students in Medicine and Arts and representatives from the Faculty.

To his relatives we would express our heartfelt sympathy; and while we recognize with sorrow the fact that another is taken from among us, we sincerely believe that he has gone where merit obtains its just reward.

JOHN REDDY, M.D., I.R.C.S.I., who died at Dublin, Ir-land, on the 23rd January, was a Representative Fellow in Medicine of this University for ten years. He studied in Dublin and Glasgow, in both of which schools he took degrees. He received an *ad eundem* degree from McGill in 1856. Dr. Reddy was one of the attending physicians at the General Hospital for 25 years, and was one of the oldest and most eminent practitioners in this city.

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J. PERRIGO, A.M., M.D., C.M., M.R.C.S. Eng., Professor of Surgery, Physician to and Medical Secretary Western Hospital.

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