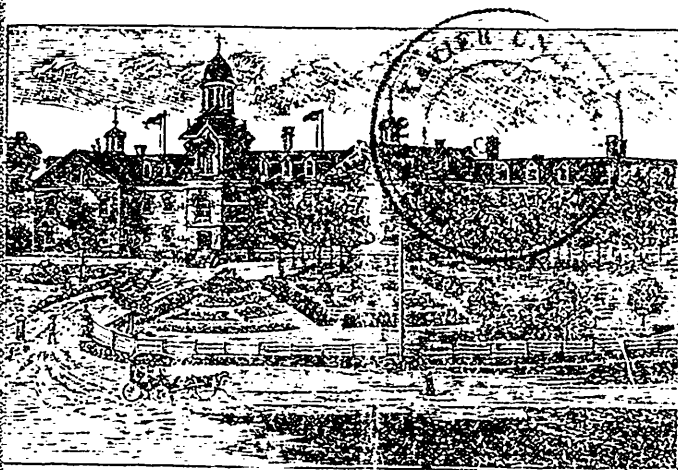


Ercelsior.

October, 1899.



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ANTIGONISH

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Excelsior.

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VOL. IV.

ANTIGONISH, N. S., OCTOBER, 1899.

No. 1.

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Antigonish, N. S.

With this issue EXCELSIOR enters on its fourth year. In this time it has experienced more than its share of the vicissitudes of fortune, and though juvenile in appearance, goes forth with a wisdom beyond its years. It has had its dark days, its seasons of stress and storm. It has been subjected to harsh and unjustified criticism and met with apathy where enthusiasm or, at least, a mild measure of interest might almost be demanded; but it has survived all, and in casting off its swaddling clothes and entering on a more vigorous career it calls on the Alumni, and indeed on all friends of St. F. X. College to promote the interests of this institution by giving EXCELSIOR their enthusiastic material and moral support. Many of our graduates of former days, alas! have been singularly indifferent to our welfare whilst others, remembering their own college days, with their boyish duties and friendships and pleasures, still cherish a warm place in their hearts for Alma Mater and assist in every good

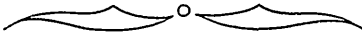
work undertaken by their successors. To the former we need not look for assistance; to the latter we can offer only our hearty thanks and express our keen appreciation of their generous efforts on our behalf in the past. To all we would say,—do not expect too much of us. A student's time is not his own. He has multifarious duties and from the time necessarily occupied in the performance of these can snatch but brief moments for the work of editing a periodical. Rarely therefore does a college journal reflect the literary excellence of its course. We, however, by the closest possible application, shall endeavour to make EXCELSIOR the faithful exponent of college life.

The students have returned much refreshed by their long vacation. Vacations, sometimes, instead of invigorating have an opposite effect, but we think we can detect in the buoyant step and beaming eye of the returning students the evidences of a well spent vacation. Having done their duty in this respect and being well equipped physically they enter on the year's work well prepared to attend to their intellectual training. Many are here for the first time and are unaccustomed to college life. To these we would say that unremitting devotion to duty is the watchword of success. Without this the year will be profitless. Begin then at once, work vigorously from the beginning and do not wait to be taught by personal experience.

The award of the Anglo-Venezuelan Boundary Commission has been made public and apparently gives satisfaction to both countries. It is a delicate matter to express an opinion on the justice of that decision, looking as it does to us much in the nature of a compromise; but looming large through the mist that surrounds the decision, appears the desire of the counsel of both countries to create the impression that the original contention of each has been sustained. It seems to us most regrettable, in view of the profound satisfaction evinced by both parties in the solution of the

Venezuelan question and also the Behring Sea difficulty, that The Hague Conference did not see fit to adopt the Czar of Russia's suggestions. We should then have a more generally satisfactory solution of international problems than is usually arrived at through the arbitrament of arms. It would at least have the effect of rendering nations more careful of the tenability of their ante-arbitration contentions.

The unequal distribution of things even in democratic United States received ample illustration a short time ago. Off Sandy Hook where the Columbia and Shamrock were contending for that much-coveted cup there was not wind enough to ruffle the surface of a mill-pond, whilst in the City of New York, but a short distance removed, a perfect tornado of the same element heralded the advent of the much lionized but rather overestimated Dewey.



“OBITER DICTA.”

Now reader, be indulgent, nor think me egotistic. I do not lay claim to any special talent; but since my birth, I have had the complement of eyes, and the universe as a field of observation. I do not suppose I have discovered enough truths to justify me in founding a new school of philosophy; but I have viewed things as no one else ever saw or will see them—through my orbs. This, and only this, is my *apologia pro mea penna*.

I was born—of course I was; every man but one had to undergo that process. Well, I started to say, though in different words, that my birth-place was in the country. Observe how non-committal I am—even cities are in the country. However, despite my rural nativity, my eyes are blue, not green; hence this brilliant comparison of Halifax with Boston.

At the outset, Halifax might be lost in Boston—I was, at the outset. The tortuous streets of the New England city, streets that end just where you know not where you are, are

so different from the straight streets of Halifax that one accustomed to travel only the latter would be at sea on the driest pavement of Boston. I do not mean to say that all the streets of Modern Athens are snake-like. Far from it. And those that are not so are the very ones that are in the grass. Commonwealth Avenue, Beacon and Washington Streets, and Massachusetts Avenue, stretching from Boston to Concord, these are notable exceptions; but, especially in the North and West ends, the streets intersect, turn and terminate vexatiously.

In Halifax it is not so. The city is laid out more in squares, and the streets run more nearly parallel, and cross almost at right angles.

Boston is right-handed, Halifax left. Gentlemen of Boston, do not put your hands in your pockets to give me each a quarter. I have paid you no compliment; what I mean is simply this: in meeting, travel in the one city keeps to the right side of the street, in the other to the left. The Haligonian can board even an open tram-car only on the left side; his entrance on the other side is barred by a strip of board that is suspended by small pulleys, and raised when the car changes ends, while one on the other side is lowered.

In Boston, you are supposed to board the trolley-car from the right; but, notwithstanding the constant admonition of conductors, passengers persist in getting on and off on either side, very often to the loss of limbs, and the gain of damages.

All Yankees seem in a hurry. Men read their newspapers at the breakfast table, and reach for their hats while saying grace. When they wish to take a car, they run for one just started, and do not notice the one that threatens to run over them behind. It is remarkable that even persons on pleasure bent show this determination to "get there" when their most serious thought is how to while the time away.

Quite otherwise in Halifax. There everybody seems to have nothing to do, and an eternity in which to do it. "A time for everything," and plenty of it, seems their motto. After all, it may be as well. A countryman, like myself, once said to a sculptor that he could see no reason why an immortal being should waste his time on such trifles as

engaged his chisel. "Well," replied the sculptor, "since I am immortal, I do not see the necessity of economizing time." How was that for philosophy?

Some in Nova Scotia have rather inaccurate ideas of the geography of Boston. A great many suppose BOSTON and UNITED STATES to be synonymous, while occasionally we are told that a certain person is not in the United States at all, but in Boston! A young woman on her way to take passage on a steamer of the Plant line once asked me if Boston were near the wharf! Not being in possession of the facts, I told her I did not know. I might have made a show of profound learning, have made regard for accuracy an excuse for my failure to impart the desired information, and inquired which wharf she meant. That's always the case: one thinks of the right word at the wrong moment. When you have read this article—pardon the assumption that you will read it—I could write it much better.

In like manner, there are many in Massachusetts who seem to think that Halifax is Nova Scotia condensed, that Cape Breton is Whitney's coal-field, and Sydney his private office. If a resident of Hawkesbury admits he is not acquainted with a specified person in Charlottetown he will be considered unsociable and unneighborly.

The citadel of Halifax is an awful institution. On a high elevation, with the city built around its base, like children clinging to the skirts of a protecting mother, how nobly it sentinel the harbor! Woe, woe to the enemy that sought entrance there. The whole hill would speak in tongues of flame, and belch forth death-dealing doses.

There is no citadel in Boston; but, as in Halifax, one's first thoughts are those aroused by the sight of gaping guns that strike sublime terror into the soul, so in Boston, the glittering dome of the State House centres attention. And after all, may not these two be compared? Each, in a manner, stands guardian over its city—the one with powder and bullet, the other with ink and pen. The pen may, in some respects, be mightier than the sword; "But when the blast of war blows in our ears," I would betake me to the citadel with stronger feelings of safety than I could have on Beacon

Hill. The gratitude of an asthetic city is due the originator of the idea of lighting the State House dome. On a moonless night when nature is shrouded in darkness, what a relief it is to see this conical mass of blazing grandeur, bathing everything around it in the glory of its effulgence !

I am tired and must rest, so let me to the Public Gardens. Wearied reader, will you not accompany me ? There the eye grown dim in the counting-room brightens at the sight of beauty ; the brain fagged by the intricacies of figures is refreshed by the simplicity of charm ; and the spirit depressed by business worries is buoyed up by the evidence of the Care that so gloriously arrays even the lilies that neither toil nor spin.

Each city may justly take pride in its Public Gardens ; but I think that, on the whole, those of Halifax surpass those of Boston. True, the latter contain more statues, and tablets commemorative of great deeds ; but, in a spot like this, Art should, it appears to me, give way to Nature. These triumphs of the sculptor's genius are admirable in their place ; but here, whither one flees from artificiality, they too plainly show the handiwork of man, and even the flower beds evidence the assiduity with which nature has been courted before she becomes partner with man's design to beautify the place.

On the contrary, in the Public Gardens of Halifax one forgets that man has had anything to do in the production of the effect ; it seems an Elysium produced by the spontaneity of nature. The weeping willow that forms a complete canopy, the rill babbling over its rocky bed, the very air saturated with the scent of flowers, and bearing the song of birds, these I place before "storied urn or animated bust."

"To me more dear, congenial to my heart,
One native charm than all the gloss of art."

HOLY NAME SOCIETY.

It is gratifying to note the zeal with which our students interest themselves in anything which is calculated to promote the glory of God and the salvation of their own immortal souls. As Catholics, they well understand the necessity of holding matters of temporal concern as of only secondary importance, when compared with things spiritual. Animated with this true christian spirit, they have early reorganized their religious societies of last year, and set themselves to work with earnestness in making them carry out the purposes for which they are intended.

Of these societies, not the least important is that of the Holy Name, which has for its object devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ, by the prevention of improper language, especially blasphemy. This devotion, engaging the attention of the Fathers of the fourteenth General Council, has been carefully cherished and fostered by subsequent Popes and Councils during the six centuries that have since intervened. Summoned to complete the work of removing any traces which might yet remain of the Albigensian heresy, which at one time threatened to sever from the centre of Catholic unity several nations of Christendom, this second Council of Lyons determined to promote in a special manner devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, in order both to honour that adorable name, and to repair the insults offered Our Lord by the heretics and blasphemers of that period.

The better to accomplish this, Pope Gregory X. addressed a letter to the Master-General of the Dominicans requesting him through his Order to make this devotion known to the people of the Catholic world. Well and truly did the Dominicans comply with the request, proclaiming with burning zeal and earnest enthusiasm the glory of the most Adorable Name of Jesus wherever they preached. The results of their labors soon bore fruit, tens of thousands who had previously used that name in outrageous blasphemy now only pronounced it in terms of deepest reverence.

But a mere proclamation of devotion to the most Holy Name did not satisfy the religious thirst of these pious men.

They well understood that to make their work more permanent it was necessary to keep this devotion alive and burning amid the infidelity impending on all sides, and consequently a confraternity was established for that purpose. Irreligion and blasphemy spreading rapidly in the sixteenth century, the Holy See, with a view to staying their progress, approved of this confraternity, and thus did the Confraternity of the Holy Name receive definite organization.

Ever since the publication of the Bull of Pius IV., approving of this Confraternity and enriching it with special graces, societies have existed the world over, devoted to the honor of the Adorable Name. Nor was there ever a time in the history of Christendom when there existed greater need for such than at the present day, as any one conversant with the state of society must readily admit. The most sacred truths of religion are held in ridicule, and so-called Christians are found who seem to vie with the sceptic and infidel in vomiting forth the most horrible blasphemies. Children, before they know to worship their Creator, know how to insult and blaspheme Him, parents often seeming as much unconcerned with their children in this regard as Tartars or Patagonians with the inhabitants of the moon. They would fain drown in oblivion the command, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain," and have darkness take the place of light. Wherever we turn, in our public schools, on the streets, in places of amusement, our ears are shocked by imprecations worthy of an apostate Julian.

Now much can be done towards repairing the insults offered Our Lord by these blasphemers, and on the members of the Holy Name Society it is incumbent especially to labor in this great work. To them it pertains to make known to the ignorant the sweetness and beauty of the sacred name of Jesus; and never should they allow that name to be used in their presence other than in terms of the greatest respect.

In a college, such as ours, where are found young men from far and near, the society must necessarily do much good, as its influence is felt not in the college alone, but in every country from which these young men come. It is thus we like to think of the society, not as acting upon individual members

only, but as a subtle influence radiating through the country and everywhere effecting desirable results. These results may not be very marked at first, for as a few drops of coloring matter will sometimes sink through a liquid leaving its tint apparently unchanged, so will this devotion sink into the hearts and souls of thousands seemingly unaffected by it, until some movement of God's grace tinges and colors it with heavenly light.

SALUTATORY.

(By J. J. Corbett, at the Commencement Exercises of the Class of 1899.)

In the ceaseless-course of time, the month of June may be looked upon as the milestone which marks the end of each successive scholastic year. It is the month which brings to a joyful close the arduous duties of the student; it is the month which, like the sun, melts away that cloud of doubt and worry which has enshrouded the mind of every prospective graduate, leaving firm the light by which his future steps are guided; it is the month which ushers into the battle-field of life new and vigorous soldiers who, armed with the knowledge acquired in their professional, scientific or arts course, stand ready to combat for the greater glory of their Commander-in-Chief who dwells on high.

A glance about and one's attention is attracted by the number assembled at these exercises which mark the passage of the graduates of '99 from a world of quiet and discipline to that of bustle and irregularity. But whether your attendance here to-day be for your own amusement or a manifestation of your interest in this institution, the Faculty, the graduates, and the students of the University of St. Francis Xavier's, to you all most cordially extend a welcome.

On such an occasion as this, joy should be the prevailing emotion, particularly with those directly concerned; but it is otherwise to-day, for over each one upon whom the degree of Bachelor of Arts is soon to be conferred, there hangs a veil of darkest gloom. Since the foundation of this institution, nothing

but universal joy has attended the reward of the graduating classes. But alas! such is not our lot. Only two short months have passed since our classmate, Alexander R. J. Campbell answered to the call of his Maker. After years of toil and perseverance, he was soon to be presented with the coveted parchment, but unsparing death deprived him of his well-earned reward. His modest ambition, which had been the admiration of all, was fruitless; his ceaseless and untiring labor in vain; but while we regret his temporal loss, we seek and find consolation in the spiritual gain which must be his, and ours. By his death the class of '99 suffered the loss of a most noble specimen of manhood. Morally, intellectually, and spiritually considered, he was a worthy model for us, his classmates, and also for his fellow-students. A loyal classmate, a trustworthy companion, and ever a true friend, we mourn him as if he were a brother.

The remaining members of the class are to step out into the world. In so doing, they find themselves called upon to sustain the high standard and reputation already established by the graduates of this institution. To succeed in doing this will be no easy task, for whatever schools the graduates of this university have attended, whether of Law, Medicine, or Theology, there they have been found among the leaders, and have left records which ever reflect credit on themselves and their Alma Mater. And to whom does this creditable showing redound? To none other than the members of the Faculty, who have unselfishly given their time, their labor, and their encouragement to form the intellects of the students that have been so fortunate as to have been placed under their charge. None know better than they who will to-morrow depart from here, perhaps forever, the superior efficiency of the Faculty as teachers; none know better how worthy is the faculty of the hearty co-operation of the Alumni Association, and the earnest support of the whole diocese; and it is the sincere hope of the graduates that their professors will soon be duly recompensed, at least by a recognition and appreciation of their work, for the noble sacrifices they are daily making in the performance of the duties which devolve upon them.

The strides in advance which have been made under the present regime are most commendable. A college since its institution in 1854, but now old St. F. X. has begun to exercise the functions of a university, and bids fair to be numbered among the first ere many Junes will have passed. Conscious of this, the students and graduates may well feel proud of their Alma Mater, and it is safe to say that the flame of loyalty, kindled in their hearts while within her halls, will continue to burn with all its fervor till the last of her sons has completed his work in the vineyard. As the Christian world to-day reflects with thoughts of gratitude, upon that star in the East which directed the pilgrim to the abode of the mother of New Light, so, with similar gratefulness, will the graduates of '99, in future years, turn their thoughts to the guiding hand of destiny that led them thither to the mother whose light will henceforth illumine their path when o'erhung with the gloom of difficulty or disappointment. They will ever consider themselves fortunate in the choice of their Alma Mater and forever will they point with pride to that parchment which confers upon them the degree, Bachelor of Arts, and bears the seal of the University of St. Francis Xavier.

CLASS OF '99.

It was in the month of September, 1893, that the largest party of students from the United States which has been here in recent years entered college. Among them was J. J. C.; of Peabody, Mass., afterwards familiarly known as Jerry. But the sulky expression of his countenance kept off such familiarity of address until he learned of his unconscious defect from one of the more adventurous of his acquaintances. From that time his manner changed, and towards the end of his course many had occasion to remark his ever cheerful face.

Soon after his arrival he began his studies and pursued them with a never-flagging zeal that gained for him the reputation of a hard-working student. Working thus he surmounted

all obstacles, and in June, '99, received his degree, being one of the first Americans to attain that honor in St. F. X.

But he will probably be remembered by many in connection with an incident which occurred during his first year in college. It all began with C—ty's detestably long hair. The S. P. U. A. decided that that hair should come off, and on its hints and even commands being disregarded, a plan was concerted to shear it in the dead of night.

About 11 o'clock on a stormy night one of the society entered the middle dormitory and put out the night light. C. saw him. Suspecting bad motives he excitedly shouted "Burglars!" The lamp was relit but no burglar was to be found. Still dissatisfied, C. remained awake though the rest of the dormitory slept.

An hour passed. A slight noise attracting C.'s attention he looked quickly towards the door and there beheld an appalling figure. It was horribly disguised with towels about its head, neck and waist; its vest was inside out and in one hand it held what seemed to be a dagger. This demoniacal being crouched in menacing attitude as it slowly crept towards the light.

Instantly a piercing shriek rang out from our terrified student. With one frantic leap the figure regained the door; in two more, the bottom of the stairs, and as the dormitory awoke with a start it could be heard careering through a distant corridor. All that night C. remained awake in an intense state of excitement fearing the return of the burglar.

Though assured on the morrow by several who knew, that it was one of the boys coming to cut C—ty's hair he remained for some weeks in state of painful uncertainty and nervous doubt. Not until a couple of years later did the identity of the "burglar" come out of the secret archives of the S. P. U. A.

Though occasionally playing baseball in the field, C. was more frequently found doing grand stand playing for the College nine in its games with the Town team, sometimes with so much ardor that the umpire found it necessary to call the game till he had finished. He was foremost in amusements of all kinds, and we can yet see him in

a crowd of choristers with chin deep in his collar singing some popular song.

He was a distinguished member of the St. Cecilia Society and Dramatic Association and often led the choir in the absence of its regular leader. As a speaker in debate he was pleasing in language and convincing in argument, though somewhat inclined to be excitable on Irish or American subjects. He was also one of the ablest and most energetic of the editors on EXCELSIOR'S staff during the past year.

He made many friends among the students and townspeople so that it is not surprising that he was rather sad at leaving Antigonish for years even though his destination was home. While many are sorry to part with him they all tender their best wishes for his future career and EXCELSIOR, which has known him so well, says sorrowfully "Adios."

VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF '99.

In the early fall of the year 1894, the valedictorian of the class of '99 first appeared in the halls of St. Francis Xavier. There was nothing in the quiet unpretentious manner of the lad of fourteen that would lead one to predict a college career as brilliant as that which ended so successfully last June; yet the easy self-possession of "Ronnie," and the masterly way in which he managed his own affairs early attracted the favorable notice of his prefect, and professors. From the very beginning he worked hard, and this studiousness marked the whole of his college life. He never forgot his classes in contemplation of the morrow's "sport," and never played till his task was well prepared. But he knew well how to keep "the happy medium" between study and exercise. By this judicious arrangement of his duties, he soon gained an insight into his studies, which enabled him to carry off honours every year.

Mathematics was his favourite study, and he always spent his spare hours in solving difficult problems or tedious equations. His fellow students, acknowledging his proficiency

in this branch, laid before him many of their difficulties, which he always cheerfully undertook to solve, even sometimes at the expense of many weary hours. But it was not in mathematics alone that he excelled. He was an "all round man," as the boys express it. He "shone" alike in Philosophy, Greek, Latin, French and English, and owing to the thoroughness of his work he was intimately acquainted with the technicalities of all these studies.

In debate he was one of the foremost, always silencing his opponents by force of cold logic. But he was not by any means a frequent speaker. He preferred to speak little and to the point. By so doing, he not only never wearied his fellow students; but he also gained for himself the well earned reputation of a solid speaker. In the entertainments, which the debating society held once a month, he was a prominent figure, always delighting the students, and his countrymen especially, by his graceful rendering of the Highland fling.

But it is in the gymnasium that he is especially missed. There he was without a superior. Among the students none excelled him at base ball, foot ball, hand ball, or tennis. In all the games in which the students contended with the outside world, he was a sure player, and was always trusted with an important position, in which he never failed.

Ronnie is now pursuing his medical studies at McGill University. That his success in Medicine may, if possible, exceed his triumph in arts is the sincere wish of all his friends and fellow students of St. Francis Xavier's College.

IN THE SUNNY WEST INDIES.

It has been said that there are interesting analogies between a delightful holiday and a good dinner, between the refreshment of the mind and that of the body. Probably both must be approached with a good appetite, and there is no appetite so good in its appreciation as that produced by work. A change of scene often becomes a necessity for those who have had their constitutions run down by incessant study and brain work, but where to go is often the perplexing question.

It is not hard for persons who live in the Maritime Provinces to solve this question, for here we have unlimited facilities for pleasure. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick we have many beautiful and picturesque resorts, along our coasts, on the borders of beautiful lakes, and by the side of many a meandering stream,—resorts which are a source of enjoyment to all.

In the winter months many persons go to the sunny West Indies. But we also find numbers of persons visiting the islands during the summer months, chiefly for the purpose of enjoying the beauties of the tropics. Such was my object when I left Halifax on the S. S. Taymouth Castle, one of Pickford & Black's southern liners.

The day on which I left was most disagreeable, being misty with a raw wind blowing from the south. The following, however, were pleasant, and those who did not experience sea-sickness could enjoy themselves in various ways whilst inhaling the invigorating breezes of the sea. Early Monday morning we sighted the island of Bermuda, one of the world's beauty spots. One of the first things seen was an immense light-house known by the name of St. David. About four miles off the coast we picked up a pilot, and steered towards the intricate and winding channel which leads to Hamilton Harbor.

One of the curious things noticed in the Bermudian sea was the color of the water. It is of a beautiful blue, here and there dotted with a dark brown, caused by the coral reefs which lie a few feet under the surface. The day on which

we entered Hamilton being an exceptionally fine one, the passengers were enabled to enjoy the various sights as we steamed along the coast. We passed near several men-o-war and the famous floating dock of the island. Soon afterwards we reached Hamilton, the capital of this cluster of coral islands.

The whole length of the archipelago from east to west is about twenty miles, and the width from shore to shore is less than three. The islands are in shape somewhat like a drawn out S. The most northerly capes are Ireland Point and Daniel Head, while the most southerly point is near Great Turtle Bay. The population is about 15,000, of whom two-thirds are colored.

On land the visitor has many things to occupy his time. Among interesting sights are the Walsingham and Joyce caves. No far from here is the poet Moore's cottage. It is said that he wrote some of his poems while residing in this house. Another spot well worth a visit from the tourist is St. David's light-house, which can be reached by means of a small steamer leaving St. George's Island for St. David.

The spectator having arrived at the building and climbed the spiral stair-case is greeted with an unrivalled panorama. From this position the beautiful blue sea is to be seen on all sides, dotted with the white sails of yachts and fishing boats. No matter what point of the compass the eye turns to the scene is most interesting. The country everywhere is exceedingly beautiful. It is eminently a place to charm the lovers of Nature.

At Hamilton, the capital, there are two large hotels, the Hamilton and the Princess—both delightfully situated. The Princess is located on the banks of the harbor, so near the water that the guest can step from the door of the hotel into a row boat or yacht. These hotels are conducted on the American plan. The servants come over from the United States during winter months, and return in the latter part of April. The city has many fine buildings, including the Church of England Cathedral, the Houses of Parliament, Custom House, and Post Office. The Catholics have also a very neat chapel. It may be mentioned that the Catholics of

Bermuda are under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Halifax. The streets are well laid out and cut one another at right angles. The underlying rock is limestone, which when the sun is shining brightly is very trying to the eyes. A beautiful cedar grove and public gardens are situated in the centre of the city. The chief exports are potatoes, onions and lily bulbs.

(To be continued.)

XAVERIANA.

Another scholastic year has begun; classes have been reorganized and work is progressing with all possible animation. A class in German has been opened by Prof. Schonenberger, a graduate of St. Michael's College, Zug, Switzerland, and Zion College, France. Prof. Schonenberger held the position of Professor of Modern Languages at Zug College for four years, and therefore assumes his new duties ripe in experience.

The lectures in law have been resumed. The class, though not large, promises good results if we are to judge by the interest manifested in the work.

During the last few years quite a number of improvements have been made in the College. Last year the building was thoroughly renovated and supplied with every convenience conducive to the health and well-being of the students. The end of this year will see the completion of a new wing which will be devoted to the study of science. In this department the College has been seriously handicapped for want of proper accommodation. The new addition will therefore be hailed with feelings of the greatest satisfaction.

The new wing will be three stories high, 90 feet by 45, with a projection for boilers and storage of coal. The materials will be brick, with a limestone basement and free-stone trimmings. The first and second stories of the eastern half will be used for class-rooms; those of the western side will contain chemical and physical apparatus and museums

for collections in geology, botany, etc. The practical work of the laboratories will be done in the basement, while the third story will contain rooms for professors and students.

The collegiate school has also shared in the general improvement. In this department boys are trained for taking up the university courses. The head master, who thoroughly understands his work, is assisted by some of the regular professors and a corps of efficient teachers. This of itself would be a sufficient guarantee of the solid foundation being laid in the school for the superstructure of a university education.

A good indication of the interest taken in their work by students of the collegiate school lies in the fact that they have organized a literary and debating society separate from that of the university.

On the evening of October 4th our debating societies were reorganized, and the following officers appointed. Those of the St. F. X. Literary and Debating Society are: President, Rev. A. Thompson, D. D.; Vice-President, Rev. D. Gillis; 2nd Vice-President, D. P. Floyd; Secy.-Treasurer, D. McLennan.

The officers of the St. John the Baptist Literary and Debating Society are: President, Rev. M. McAdam; Vice-President, D. J. McDonald; 2nd Vice-President, L. McPherson, Secy.-Treasurer, J. Steele.

SPORT.

ATHLETIC MEETING.

A meeting of the Athletic Association was called on the 25th ult., and never in late years did the students respond with such a hearty good will.

H. Y. McDonald and A. McGillivray were appointed President and Secretary, pro tem.

The President then made some remarks concerning the object of the meeting.

Prof. Horrigan spoke at length concerning sports in general, pointing out the necessity of physical training in college life.

encouraging the students to assist the committees and to support the college teams vigorously.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows: President, Prof. Horrigan; Vice-Pres., D. P. Floyd; Secretary and Treasurer, J. W. Brown.

The various sub-committees for base ball, foot ball, hand ball, tennis and hockey were then appointed, representatives being taken from all the years.

Many members expressed opinions and made suggestions concerning certain reforms. At the close of the meeting the students paid the annual fees, and all look forward to a good year's work on the part of St. F. X. athletes.

BASE BALL.

For some weeks the base ball diamond has been the centre of attraction in sporting circles. The candidates for the first team worked hard and were soon in fine condition. Arrangements for a ball game with the old time opponents, the town boys, were completed and all looked forward to a good sharp game, which took place on the 3rd inst. The game from the start was decidedly in favor of the College nine and at no time were they in danger of losing. The day was all that could be desired and both twirlers appeared in excellent form. The College nine batted heavier than their opponents, which, coupled with the steady support given their own pitcher, won the game. The score was 24 to 10, and is certainly one of the greatest victories for the College team, in our base ball history.

No special remarks can be made concerning individual playing, as every man played his part thoroughly.

The following are the names of the College and town nines:

E. P. Power,	C.,	C. McGillivray
W. P. Rawley,	P.,	H. McDonald
J. B. McDonald,	1st Base,	M. J. Fitzgerald
E. Geizer,	2d "	D. McLean
J. W. Brown,	3d "	M. Mahoney
A. Frazer,	S. S.,	H. Chisholm
A. Bernasconi,	R. F.,	R. McPhee
H. Gillis,	C. F.,	J. McAdam
H. Babin,	L. F.,	P. Bernasconi

The races which took place after the ball game were very exciting. In the 100 yards dash LaCasse secured 1st place, McGillivray 2nd and O'Toole 3rd. In the 220 yards run McCurdy secured 1st, McGillivray 2nd, LaCasse 3rd. Dunn and McKinnon captured the three-legged race.

FOOT BALL.

Now that the base ball fervor has subsided, the disciples of the "pig skin" have taken charge of the campus. Much sharp practice has been indulged in, and has brought out available material for a good team. Many of the men are yet lacking in knowledge of the principles of the game, but ere a few weeks we expect to see a team which will do credit anywhere to St. F. X.

EXCHANGES

We feel that in starting EXCELSIOR on its first trip of the present scholastic year, a great and arduous task is before us; and that the management of the exchange column is by no means the least difficult of its many duties.

The exchange column is that part of the paper which is looked upon as the organ of intercourse between the representatives of College journalism. It is there that we expect to be weighed in the balance of the critic, and where we do not expect to find an unusual amount of indulgence, but the usual amount of fair play. For it is with us as with most college journals, that each year finds its editorial staff composed mostly of new men; men who, although they may wield the pen with some degree of skill, are nevertheless not familiar with journalistic work. But by a careful perusal of the exchanges they become acquainted with the manner in which the work is carried on. In the exchange column is generally found a certain amount of criticism, which is calculated to bring out the good as well as the bad qualities of sister journals. This criticism is beneficial in many ways. As already said it gives the men who are on the editorial staff for the first time, a better idea of their work and also enables us to see our faults as others see them. For we should follow the advice of the poet when he says:

"Trust not yourself; but your defects to know,
Make use of every friend—and every foe."

PERSONALS.

We take this our first opportunity to welcome to St. Francis Xavier's the Rev. D. V. Phalen and the Rev. M. McAdam. The former has been an active and energetic parish priest in this diocese for some years. He fills the chair of English Literature. The latter, who has only lately been ordained to the priesthood, occupies the position of Head Master in the Collegiate School.

We also most cordially extend a welcome to the Rev. Father Defoie, who comes to us as professor of music, and to Mr. Schonenberger, who takes the position of professor of German.

James W. Connoly, who so efficiently filled the position of professor of History and Junior Mathematics in St. F. X. College last term, has this year accepted a position on the staff of St. Anne's College.

We are pleased to see our old friend and fellow student, D. P. Floyd, back again. He succeeds Mr. Connoly as professor of History and Mathematics. Since graduating from this institution, Mr. Floyd has won for himself an enviable reputation as a teacher in some of the best schools of the country.

Mr. D. McPherson, our editor-in-chief of last year, is pursuing the second year of Theology in the Quebec Seminary. The EXCELSIOR wishes him every success in his studies.

The graduates of last year are now scattered far and wide. J. J. Corbett is as at present at his home in Peabody, Mass. He is soon to enter upon the study of Medicine. R. St. John McDonald is studying medicine at McGill University. L. E. O'Keefe is taking a special course in science in St. F. X. College. The other members of the class are teaching at the places mentioned: Allan A. McDonald, West Chezzetcook, Halifax; R. A. J. McIsaac, Dunmore, Ant. Co.; J. Murphy, L'Ardoise, C. B.

Mr. Jas. Chisholm, a former student of the College, paid us a visit on his way to attend Baltimore Medical School. Mr. H. A. McPherson, who completed his junior year in '97-98, has entered upon his novitiate in the Jesuit College, Montreal.

D. D. McCurdy is attending the law school at Halifax, and A.A. McDonald is teaching at St. Andrews.

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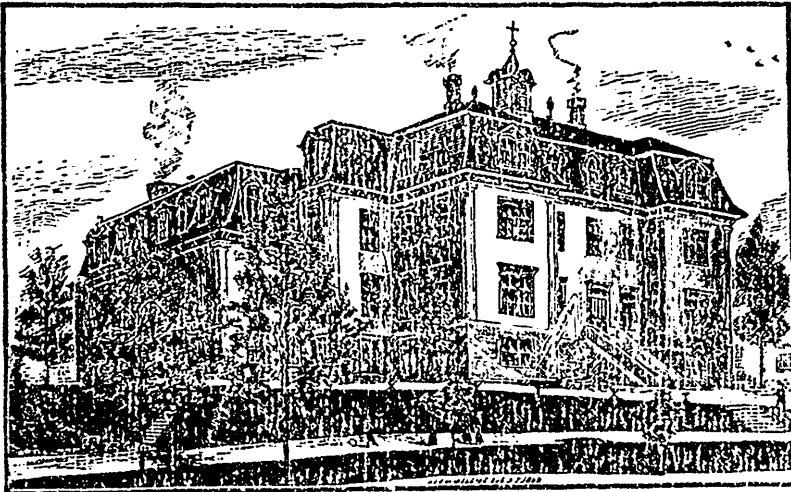
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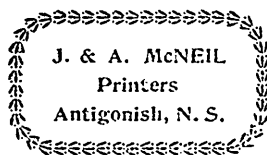
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