

# THE ACADIA ATHENÆUM.

VOL. XI.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., JANUARY, 1885.

No. 4

## THE Acadia Athenæum.

Published Monthly during the College Year by the  
Students of Acadia University.

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One copy per Year, \$ 1.00. Postage prepaid.

Business letters should be addressed to C. H. Day, Sec.  
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Acadia Athenæum.

To all our Subscribers

AND

◀ FELLOW STUDENTS ▶

WE WISH

A Happy and Prosperous

NEW YEAR!

## The Sanctum.

THE unsettled condition of some of our Provincial Colleges has naturally revived the hopes of the consolidationists, and a plea has recently been made in the public press for the union of Dalhousie with Kings by a Governor of the latter institution. The plan outlined contemplates University consolidation with independent colleges, thus, in the writer's opinion, meeting the wishes of both the supporters and opponents of the present system. There is a certain amount of plausibility in this scheme, but we have little expectation of seeing it consummated. Higher education in this province owes so much to denominational fostering and is so closely associated with certain centres that it will be a very difficult work to establish a different order of things. Dalhousie College would scarcely recognize itself if set down on the classic banks of the Avon, Kings would be no longer the historic Kings if transported bodily to Halifax, and Acadia would certainly mourn if removed from the associations of College Hill, where she has endured struggles, met disasters and achieved triumphs. No, we are not preparing to move. We know of no site in the province that would compensate us for the loss of Blomidon, the waters of Minas Basin and the meadows of Grand Pre; but if University consolidation is to be effected we invite attention to the claims of Wolfville to be the seat of the various Colleges forming the new University.

THE second term commenced on the sixth of January this year.

IT was customary some years ago for each member of the Senior Class to write a thesis to be read before the Faculty and students of the College and afterwards deposited in the college archives. This custom, for some time abandoned, has recently been revived, and the present class, in addition to the large amount of work already expected of them, have received the cheering announcement that they will be required to prepare papers on important subjects to be ready early in the year. A satisfactory explanation of this departure just at the present time, might not be easily given. That the general interests of the class were consulted cannot be denied, still the wisdom of making increased demands upon their time, already sufficiently limited, may be questioned. But waiving objections, the possible benefits may be briefly considered.

We believe that few institutions in the Dominion provide better opportunities for acquiring proficiency in the art of English composition than Acadia. The students, during their Freshman year are required to write weekly essays on assigned subjects. These essays are carefully examined and criticised not only with regard to the more obvious errors in orthography, but also with a view to the proper choice of words and skill in the construction and arrangement of sentences. These are followed in the Sophomore and Junior years by monthly essays prepared with greater care. Here more attention is paid to originality, and consecutiveness in thought, and clearness and force in language. In all these compositions however the tenuency is to diffuseness and rhetorical effect rather than pointness and logical connection. This is more especially true of essays prepared for declamation. In this case the author is too often complimented for the richness of his vocabulary and the harmonious roll of his sentences, rather than for the breadth of his thought and the combined dignity and simplicity of his language. To cor-

rect this tendency to mannerism and cultivate a taste for more chaste and subdued methods of expression and a more mature and scholarly style, is no unimportant part of a student's training. A thesis prepared under the critical eye of an efficient instructor would go far toward securing this object. It might not be sufficient to alter a habit or supply a deficiency, but it would reveal to the student his own literary weaknesses, and put him in possession of means by which they might, in time, be remedied.

ANOTHER year, with its record of events both tragic and historical, with its burden of cares, joys and sorrows has departed, leaving us standing upon the brink of a new and untried period where the crowding associations of the past and the unknown possibilities and bright visions of the future meet and mingle like messengers from distant realms each bearing tidings of varied import. The one exhibits the page of life disfigured by many a tear-drop, darkened by many a stain—"resolves and re-resolves" written in trembling but hopeful characters suggestive of stern conflict and lofty purpose; the other proudly unrolls the unwritten record of life and exhibits it all radiant, all sparkling, all aglow with ideal loveliness. Here eager fancy traces in glittering capitals a life emancipated from the cares, relieved from the sorrows and toils which experience whispers are the heritage of mortals. The picture is all too fair. Its golden coloring should be modified by reflections from a darker past. Experience ought to teach us that however beautiful the perspective may seem, a nearer view will reveal many a bold and rugged outline, so the years—those solemn monitors—should convince the reflective that what has happened once may, perchance, occur again, and that the life of the individual is, in many respects, analogous to the life of the nation in which history

so frequently repeats itself. Burns voiced something more than his own peculiar experience when he wrote:

But oh! I backward cast my ee  
On prospects drear,  
And forward though I canna see,  
I guess and fear.

At this season there is usually a perceptible pause in the march of life—thought flows in quieter channels, life for a time, is relieved from much that is stern and repellent, the brotherhood of man becomes practically acknowledged, and reflection brings the soul face to face with the profound realities of its nature. This breathing space gives one an opportunity to take up the tangled web of life anew and learn from the mistakes of the past to proceed with more caution in the future, to "rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things."

Standing thus upon the threshold of another year, the thoughtful student will endeavor to avoid whatever previously impeded his progress or weakened his efforts. Vows will be registered, and manly resolutions recorded, old habits will be laid aside, and dangerous associations avoided, tendencies will be strictly guarded against, and a proud ambition to reign monarch of himself will fill the student with a lofty courage and a noble self denial. But self restraint is liable to become irksome, the new habits are too often changed for the old before the former have had time to become persistent and crystallize into character; thus results are lost because the element of perseverance is wanting, — a condition of things too frequently observed to be regarded as phenomenal—Failure however, though it may discourage for a time, should not completely crush the spirit. There is no royal road to exalted manhood. Moral as well as intellectual excellence can only be obtained through resolute energy and constant self denial. The character that is most admired, that demands and receives the respect and homage of men, is not a

spontaneous growth where nature has done everything and the individual nothing; it is rather a development where the will is a potent factor, and the whole man is subordinated to law, physical and ethical. 'Out of suffering,' says one, 'have emerged the strongest souls and the most massive characters are seamed with scars.'

IT is an indication of healthy religious growth when consolidation and strengthening of denominational enterprises can be effected at the expense of sectionalism. This has been exemplified in the history of several religious bodies in the Dominion within the last decade, and now this centralizing tendency is affecting the denomination that founded and has cared for Acadia College. The Baptists of the Dominion have already united in Theological work and are contemplating union in Foreign Mission work. The Free Baptists and Regular Baptists of New Brunswick have united in the work of Secondary education and have under discussion the more important project of organic union, and now, after considerable discussion the Maritime Baptists have effected a most important and much needed consolidation in the union of their two denominational organs, the "Christian Messenger" and "Christian Visitor." The new paper is to appear with the new year 1885, is to be edited by the Rev. Calvin Goodspeed, and to be published in St. John. The two papers whose separate existence thus ceases have had an honorable and useful career. The "Messenger" was projected in 1835 but did not appear till Jan. 1837. Since that date it has been a regular weekly visitor to thousands of homes and a consistent advocate of Temperance, Education and all social and moral reforms. The "Visitor" first appeared in Jan. 1848 and has been for New Brunswick what the "Messenger" has been for Nova Scotia. It

has consistently supported missions, Acadia College, and the various denominational enterprises, and its policy has in the main been at one with the "Messenger," though on minor points the papers have diverged, and it has been thought by many that these divergent policies had a tendency to perpetuate Sectionalism, and to some extent to disintegrate the denomination. The new paper will be the organ of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, and will in addition to the intelligent discussion of the various social and economic questions that will naturally present themselves for consideration, give a vigorous support to Acadia College, and its affiliated schools, and Home and Foreign missions, and do this in such a way as to secure unification of interest and purpose among Maritime Baptists. We therefore look for good results from the consummation of the "one paper movement."

**T**HERE has been some discussion lately in certain circles respecting the advisability of extending the college year to the first of June, thus returning to the order of things which prevailed some years ago. At the present time the three lower classes are dismissed early in May, and the graduating class alone remains to represent the College at the anniversary. This arrangement, it is claimed is more satisfactory, in many respects, than that which formerly obtained.

The question was debated before the Athenæum Society a few weeks ago and the decision arrived at by the students on that occasion was unanimously in favor of an early suspension of college work. The arguments which inclined the students to this opinion are briefly as follows: (1) Experience goes far to show that the month of May is entirely unsuited for study: it brings with it a certain amount of physical languor against which Nature seeks an antidote in a

larger measure of out-door life; it presents attractions in the shape of balmy air, pleasant sunshine, springing flowers and verdant meadows, which even the most studious find it impossible to resist. The amount of work performed during the month is therefore merely nominal; hence if more time for study be the object in desiring to extend the term the object is defeated by conditions over which the student has little or no control. (2) It is said that at our anniversaries the College is but poorly represented, and visitors receive incorrect impressions with regard to the actual number of its undergraduates. It may be urged in reply that a large attendance during the college year is of more practical importance than for the mere purpose of exhibition; and if, by shortening the term, students are induced to seek Acadia who would otherwise have insufficient means to carry them through, then by all means let us have an early close. (3) Many of the students are obliged to depend on their earnings during vacation to maintain themselves in college. To extend the term till June would be to shorten the vacation, and correspondingly diminish their income. (4) A departure from the present arrangement would be an inconvenience to those students who belong to the teaching profession, as the school term begins the first of May, and applicants for situations are not always successful after that period. (5) An extended vacation will afford our overworked professors an opportunity for foreign travel and study which the former regulation rendered impossible. (6) The custom of closing in May is growing in favor and is being generally adopted in English and American Universities. These are but a few out of the many reasons that might be urged in favor of the present arrangement. To some of our friends the position we take on this question may be a surprise, as we learn that many of the Alumni at the last anniversary were led to infer that a large number of the students held opinions ex-

actly opposite to those here outlined. If such be the fact we hasten to inform them that they have been misled. They should exercise some degree of caution in accepting the statements of irresponsible persons who did not at that time and who have seldom at any time since, represented the opinions of even a respectable minority of the students of the College.

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A neat print of McMaster Hall appears on the last page of this issue. We feel sure that its appearance there will gratify our readers. The history of this Institution, together with its present relation to Acadia College is too well known to require special mention here. Some of our former students are now pursuing their theological studies at the Hall, and many more are intending to go after the completion of their Arts course at Acadia. We trust that the number of these may be increased each year, and that the institution may prosper as it deserves.

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WE take this opportunity of thanking our subscribers for their promptness in responding to our call for funds and also for their many congratulations and expressions of goodwill.

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### HEALTH AND EXERCISE.

That physical exercise is necessary for proper mental development is an acknowledged and palpable fact. This statement naturally gives rise to the inquiry as to what kind of exercise is most suitable for the student. For a short period in the fall of the year he occupies his leisure hours with such out-door sports as foot-ball and cricket, the benefits derived from them being unquestionably great. These, however, are in season during only a small part of the College

year, and for the remainder of the time he is forced to look in other directions for the means whereby to further his physical development. Walking is invigorating and conducive to health, but after a time it becomes exceedingly monotonous and fails to accomplish the desired results. Skating also is productive of good and forms a very enjoyable recreation, but it must be remembered that this species of exercise calls into play only certain muscles of the body, leaving the rest inactive. Besides this, rink-skating, especially for students, has been denounced by recent authorities, who claim that the cold damp atmosphere is a prolific source of various throat and lung diseases, and in addition, that the benefit conferred is entirely out of proportion to the amount of time expended. However this may be, it certainly does not afford to the student a sufficient amount of muscular exertion. It is in the gymnasium that he finds opportunity for the development of his entire physical being. A careful examination would reveal the fact that of all university graduates who have become famous, a majority owe their success in life not only to the mental discipline and educating power of the studies pursued, but equally with these to the health-inspiring influences of the college gymnasium. Its good effects have been observable from the earliest times. Nothing calls the powers into such active exercise; nothing requires such quickness of limb, of mind and of eye, together with so much self-possession; nothing in short develops so completely the whole frame.

Health is a priceless gem, and it is the duty of every student to take advantage of those opportunities which tend in the greatest degree to keep him in possession of this invaluable treasure. By taking a regular course of athletic training such as the gymnasium will supply he strengthens himself for battle with the world, he prepares himself for mental labor in the future, and he leaves college both intellectually and physically strong.

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

A recent article in THE ATHENÆUM calls attention to the removal of the Theological Department of Acadia College to Toronto and the consequences likely to result therefrom.

Perhaps it is too soon to discuss the results of the action taken at Halifax, but it seems fitting that the subject of ministerial training should be given some prominence in discussions on Education. For in as far as Educationists aim to inform and elevate the people they have few, if any, agencies more potent than the men who are seen "toiling for the spiritually indispensable not daily bread, but the bread of life." Preachers do not, so much as in the past, have a monopoly of learning, but the nature of their office and the methods of their support bring them into closest relations with the people, so that whatever culture they possess will be effectively used. The preacher's strength of thinking, his breadth of knowledge, his literary style and his general taste will be clearly seen in the community where he labors. Perhaps no man does more to influence the general range of thought and the degree of general culture: for the preacher gathers the best and most influential more than a hundred times a year and gives them his best thought on subjects which he and they regard as most important.

It must be remembered also that as culture spreads the range of preaching must be wider. "The thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns," and the preacher is to translate the truths of revelation into the thought of his own time. To do this he must think with his time and for it. It will not do to preach a system of theology which is the result of the religious thinking of a former generation. The truth must reach the life of to-day through men who are in vital sympathy with their age. Printing will not displace but help such preaching; civilization will not grow beyond it. It

will always be needed and used, and never in vain.

But if these statements, of which space will admit no expansion, be true what are the inferences for the Baptists of these Provinces?

First that they should understand and appreciate the work they are now doing for Ministerial Education by affording a liberal training to their future pastors. Let it be well understood that the making of a minister is nothing less than the making of a man; that the measure of the man's power, and the value of the college course will be evident. No training in Theology alone will adequately prepare the Minister for efficient service to the thinking, questioning multitudes who will seek intellectual and spiritual guidance from him. To bring our academic and collegiate Institutions to the most efficient state will be the best possible service for ministerial training.

Our second inference is for preachers. They should know their power as educators and therefore aim to grow in knowledge as well as in grace. The interests dearest to them cannot be fully assured without severe thinking and earnest study. Sermons that give no evidence of a living thinking man who is speaking to the earnest seekers of to-day will soon lose their power.

College students should infer that they may learn much from the sermons and religious discussions they hear. During their course they attend some hundreds of religious services. Though Theology has no place in the curriculum it has no small place in their education. In view of the thought, philosophical and religious, of the present time, ought not the college graduate to be expected to have an intelligent view of the great religious questions generally discussed in our literature? PEW.

—◆◆◆—  
 'Ignorance is the curse of God,  
 Knowledge the wing with which we fly to Heaven.

## Poetry.

## THE NEW YEAR.

The dying year, at the supreme command,  
Fades slowly in the dim weird shadow land  
(That mystic home of Time's departed dead,  
Whither the shades of bygone years have fled) —  
Fading with all its actions in its train,  
And sad-voiced memories alone remain  
To chide the weary drooping hearts which sigh  
For wasted moments in the hours pass'd by.  
Vows lightly made,—ah ! better to redeem—  
Plans, roseate once, swift faded as a dream ;  
Weak erring souls, swerving from duty's line,  
Dead incense offer now at Honour's shrine ;  
And the fair moon, by gath'ring clouds o'ercast,  
Looks down in sorrow on the wasted past,  
As silent vesper-stricken shadows fall  
And veil the year now fading past recall.

The midnight hour has struck. The old church bell  
Has toll'd the past year's sad departing knell ;  
Loud sounding o'er the ether sweet and clear  
The glad some chimings hail the newborn year,  
And sorrow soiled hearts their kindred greet  
As from 'he kirk they pass adown the street,  
The future scann'd, the bitter past reviewed,  
The broken vow, and covenant renewed.  
All vanished now the darkling careworn trace  
Of haunting Retrospection's gloomy face ;  
The Old Year's sadness, faded now from view,  
Is merged within the brightness of the New,  
And Luna, radiant Majesty of Night,  
Floods the New Year with cloudless streams of light  
That pierce each shadowed path, as though to cheer  
The way-worn pilgrim through the coming year.  
—Selected.

## THE STUDENT'S SHRINE.

“Why burns thy lamp so late, my friend,  
Into the kindling day ?  
It burneth so late to show the gate  
That leads to wisdom's way ;  
As a star doth it shine, on the soul of mine,  
To guide me with its ray.  
Dear is the hour, when slumber's power,  
Weighs down the lids of men ;  
Proud and alone I mount my throne,  
For I am a monarch then !  
The great and the sage of each bygone age,  
Assemble at my call,  
Oh happy am I in my poverty,  
For they are my brothers all !  
Their voices I hear so strong and clear,  
Like a solemn organ's strain,

Their words I drink and their thoughts I think,  
They are living in me again !  
For their settled store of immortal lore,  
To me they must unclose,  
Labor is bliss with a thought like this,  
Toil is my best repose.

Why are thy cheeks so pale my friend,  
Like a snow-cloud wan and gray ?

They are bleached with white in the mind's clear  
Which is deepening day by day ; [light,  
Though the hue they have be the hue of the grave  
I wish it not away.

Streight may depart and youth of heart,  
May sink into the tomb ;

Little reck I that the flower must die,  
Before the fruit can bloom.

I have striven hard for my high reward,  
Through many a lonely year ;

But the goal I reach it is mine to teach  
Let man stand still to hear.

I may wreath my name with the brightness of fame

To shine on history's pages ;

I shall be a gem on the diadem,

Of the past for future ages ;

O life is bliss with a thought like this,

I clasp it as a bride.

Pale grew his cheeks while the student speaks,  
He laid him down and died.”

—Selected

## THE JUNIOR EXHIBITION.

The Rhetorical Exhibition of the Junior Class is one of the most interesting events connected with the closing of the college for the Christmas holidays. The public as well as the students look forward to these exercises with growing interest. To the student they form a pleasing termination to a period otherwise occupied by reviews and examinations; to the public they afford an opportunity for becoming acquainted with the personal as well as some of the literary characteristics of the class. The audience which assembles on these occasions usually represents the 'elite' of the village and surrounding country, and their intelligence and interest encourage and inspire the speakers. The exhibition held on the 18th ult., attracted an even larger audience than usual. The powers without were propitious. For some days previous Nature

had been busy decking College Hill in immaculate robes for the occasion. Never did magician conjure up a scene more enchanting than met the eye, as the setting sun, wheeling slowly toward the horizon, bathed College, hill and grove in a flood of mellow light and seemed to transform the ice-covered old trees into a network of burnished silver. The night that followed was clear and starry. Soon the music of the college bell, falling upon the still, frosty air and echoing from the distant hills, the merry tinkle of sleigh bells and occasional snatches of song from some light-hearted student, gave a variety and charm to the scene difficult to describe, and not soon to be forgotten.

After the professors and students—all arrayed in cap and gown—had marched in and taken their places, the exercises were begun and carried out according to the following

### PROGRAMME :

PRAYER.

ORATIONS.

Life of an Athenian Citizen in the time of Pericles.  
*Harry A. Lovett, Kentville, N. S.*

The Ideal Historian.  
*\*Foster F. Eaton, Parrsboro, N. S.*

The Literary Element of the Bible.  
*John W. Brown, Grafton, N. S.*

The Guelfs and Ghibellines.  
*\*Walter V. Higgins, Wolfville, N. S.*

MUSIC.

The Sources of National Greatness.  
*\*Herbert B. Smith, Brookfield, N. S.*

The Uses of Imagination.  
*Ernest M. Freeman, Newport, N. S.*

The Main Features of Roman Worship.  
*Mark B. Shaw, Berwick, N. S.*

The Making and Influence of the English Bible.  
*\*Harry H. Hall Penobsquis, N. B.*

MUSIC.

The Study of Style.

*M. Blanche Bishop, Greenwich, N. S.*

Sir William Herschel.

*\*Vernon F. Masters, Cornwallis, N. S.*

The Influence of Patronage on Literature.  
*Austin K. DeBlois, Wolfville, N. S.*

Egypt.

*\*Frank H. Knapp, Sackville, N. B.*

MUSIC.

Retribution : or the Nemesis of Greek Tragedy.  
*Charles H Day, Yarmouth, N. S.*

Nationalization of Land.

*\*Wm. B. Hutchinson, Great Village, N. S.*

The Study of Chemistry as a means of Mental Discipline.

*Frank H. Beals, Inglisville, N. S.*

MUSIC.

ADDRESSES.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

\*EXCUSED.

The essays, as will be seen by examining the programme, embraced a wide range of subjects—biography, history, science, literature, poetry, and philosophy being handled by the speakers in a manner that indicated careful preparation and skillful training. Many of the papers were marked by a clearness and force of thought, and an ease and grace in delivery which augurs well for the future of the class.

No notice of the exhibition would be complete without special reference to the presence of a lady on the platform. The hearty applause that greeted Miss Bishop on her appearance seemed to indicate that she was a general favorite, while her essay convinced the audience that for clearness of thought and attractiveness of style she suffered nothing by comparison with her class-mates.

The music was of an unusually superior character and reflected credit on the performers, and in every particular the exhibition was worthy of the class and was generally pronounced by the audience a decided success. ARGOS.

Despise wealth and imitate a God.

## EXCHANGES.

Owing to a press of other matter this department of THE ATHENÆUM has for some time been neglected, but we hope to be able in the future, to acknowledge the arrival of our exchanges with appropriate ceremony. Although we have not reviewed their pages with the characteristic dash of the orthodox ex. man, yet we have welcomed their appearance and profited by their criticism. We have endeavored to follow their advice when it was sensible but ignored it when it lacked that element. Improvements are visible in many of them, while others, in spite of advantages, are gradually deteriorating. A few of them, in attempting to avoid the Scylla of a stiff and pompous style on the one hand have fallen into the Charybdis of weakness and sentimentality on the other. We turn to the somewhat heterogeneous mass lying before us with some misgivings, but with an interest born of common aims and awakened by similar ideals.

Our nearest neighbor, THE RECORD, has had some unpleasant experience. From a few unguarded sentences admitted into its columns it was virtually placed under the ban by the college authorities. We sympathize with THE RECORD. It has been more cautious and dignified in its discussion of the recent 'muddle' than might have been expected under the circumstances. To attempt to silence a college paper for speaking out fearlessly on a question over which dons and ecclesiastics lost their heads, is a species of petty tyranny that ought not to be successful.

The DALHOUSIE GAZETTE appears to be carefully edited. The December number has a lengthy article on co-education which contains, along with much that is excellent, not a little that is open to criticism. The article on "Our needs as a nation," deals with a live question from a sensible standpoint. The GAZETTE is welcome.

When a college journal ignores its ideal and degrades itself by becoming a medium for mere gossip and sentiment, the public is forced to conclude that its editors lack judgment and taste. Seminaries and Recepticas are, doubtless desirable institutions, but constant and ex-

tended reference to either of these subjects by a paper of any pretensions is rather childish to say the least. A recent number of THE ARGOSY we think, affords just ground for the above criticism. If the students of Mount Allison would only catch and muzzle the creature, male or female, who chatters nonsense from the "Ladies' Academy," and pitch the local editor out of the highest window in the college—the higher the better—there might be some hope for THE ARGOSY; but with two such simpletons disfiguring its pages it cannot long retain the respect even of its friends.

A little stranger, modest in appearance but with face unpoetically red, looks beseechingly at us from beneath a mass of solemn exchanges. It hails from Pictou and is called 'THE ACADEMY.' We confess we have a sneaking fondness for our small brother, and we are convinced that when he will have removed the paint from his face and learned that "subdued colors are most fashionable" he will be able to take care of himself. We wish the ACADEMY every success.

Another new exchange claims from us a fraternal greetings. This is 'THE BLAIR HALL LITERARY MAGAZINE,' published by the students of Blair Hall, New Jersey. The appearance and character of the paper are highly creditable to the editors and managers. We cheerfully give it a place on our ex. list.

'CHOICE LITERATURE,' an eclectic magazine issued monthly by John B. Alden, New York, is worthy of its title. It contains an excellent assortment of first-class articles from the foremost English and American writers, and forms a valuable addition to the current literature of the day. Mr. Alden, the enterprising publisher and the leading spirit of the 'Literary Revolution,' deserves the patronage of the reading public for his success in reducing the prices of so many standard works and thus placing them within the reach of all classes. Guizot's History of France, originally sold for \$50.00, is now issued from Alden's publishing house in eight small octavo volumes of 500 pages each, printed in bourgeoisie type, bound in fine cloth, and containing 426 full page illustrations, at \$7.00 per set.

We have also received the 'Berkleyan,' 'Varsity,' 'Colby Echo,' 'Acta Victoriana,' 'Academian,' 'Oberlin Review,' 'University Gazette,' 'Haverfordian,' 'Adelphian,' and 'Niagara Index.'

### EXCERPTA.

Success does not consist in never making blunders, but in never making the same one a second time.

Who can know how much of his most inward life is made up of the thoughts he believes other men to have about him until that fabric of opinion is threatened with ruin.—George Eliot.

It is amusing to detect character in the vocabulary of each person. The adjective habitually used like the inscriptions on a thermometer indicate the temperament.

A long experience has taught me that advice can profit but little, that there is a good reason why advice is seldom followed; this reason, namely, that it is so seldom, and can almost never be, rightly given. No man knows the state of another; it is always to some more or less imaginary man that the wisest and most honest adviser is speaking.—Carlyle.

Like the rainbow, Peace rests upon the earth but its arch is lost in Heaven! Heaven bathes it in hues of light—it springs up amidst tears and clouds—it is a reflection of the Eternal Sun—it is an assurance of calm—it is the sign of a great covenant between man and God. Such peace is the smile of the soul; it is an emanation from the distant orb of immortal right.—Sir E. Bulwer Lytton.

A law, a profound, a benign law of our being it is, that every blessing we bestow upon others is a blessing to ourselves. The love that flows out of us in benefaction weaves a warming halo of smiles around our own life; while self love, flowing inward becomes a smouldering fire without radiance, around which crouch unrest and ennui, scorns and hates, and coldnesses, that darken the daily being of ourselves and of those nearest us. Blessings, like curses, come back to roost at home.—Calvert.

### THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

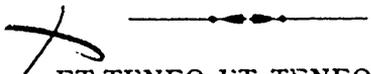
This story, which has been regarded by many able critics as Shakespeare's brightest gem of dramatic art was first published about 1598. The story itself was not entirely new. The device of the caskets was familiar to many in the romance of Barlaam and Josaphat, and allegorical tales entitled Gesta Romanorum. The incident of the pound of flesh was even more familiar to the lovers of fable than that of the caskets. It first appeared in the Il Piconone, a collection of Italian plays more than a century before the time of Shakespeare. Thus we see that in this play at least Shakespeare did not originate the story, but with consummate art, moulded out of the rude materials, furnished by humbler workmen a monument of genius which has challenged the admiration of scholars and critics for three hundred years. The question might here arise, does not this appear like a lack of originality in our poet? Does it not impair his reputation, and lessen his claim to perfect mastery of poetic art? This question may be answered by asking another. Does it diminish our admiration for the sculptor to learn that he has taken the rough stone hewn from the rock by the rude hands of the quarryman, and fashioned it into a beautiful statue, perfect in every limb, life like in every feature and almost rivalling the human form in symmetry and beauty? The evidence of genius which the statue displays loses none of its power, even after we have discovered that the sculptor did not quarry the stone himself, so the genius of Shakespeare still demands our homage although we find him employing material originally provided by other hands. But if the ground work of the plot previously existed, what has Shakespeare done? Much every way! His was the genius that moulded the crude, unshapely marble of mediæval romance into the splendid statue of dramatic art; his was the magician's wand that inspired a mass of worthless fable with almost immortal life; his was the touch that drew deathless harmony from an instrument once voiceless and tuneless. In this play, perhaps more than any other, Shakespeare has shown himself a perfect master of characterization. Antonio, Shylock, Portia do not appear like poetic creations, but living identities described with marvellous vividness and dramatic power. The portraiture of such a character as Shylock reveals the hand of a master. Shylock is emphatically a Jew. His speech, his manners, his avarice all betray his nationality; yet he is a Jew of no ordinary type. The cringing timidity, the fawning obsequiousness, so characteristic of his oppressed and exiled race is wanting in him. Well-marked traces of that haughty and vindictive spirit for which his people were distinguished in their earlier history are revealed in him, especially during his paroxysms of passion. His is exemplified in his sneering allusion to Antonio: "How like a fawning publican he looks." His

however, is not a character wholly despicable. Though he possesses no claim to the benevolent disposition, or the sublime unselfishness of Antonio, or the generous nature of the noble Bassanio; yet he is not an entire stranger to virtue. Behind the dark back ground of avarice and revenge there gleams at times fitful flashes of nobler feeling. His love for his daughter may be mingled with the baser love for his stolen treasures; the desire for justice may be lost in a thirst for vengeance, but his attachment to his ancient race, his strong sympathy for his dispised and oppressed brethren appear as redeeming features in a character otherwise dark and repellent. His determination to adhere to the strict letter of the law reveals the Jewish nature. With his habits of thought and peculiar training, a deviation from the *exact* literal interpretation of the bond would be regarded as an act of injustice. He could conceive of no justice that was not based upon a rigid administration of law. He did not, however, appear to accept his own doctrine when its affects recoiled upon himself. This Shylock is a representative character. His feelings, his claims and their results, are in miniature but the detailed history of his race for centuries.

In the merchant, Antonio, we have the very antipodes of Shylock. He is perhaps the central figure of the play, though not the chief dramatic character. There is a passivity about him, a certain lack of self-assertion, a mild resignation to circumstances which unfits him for the hero of the play. He lacks the stormy energy of Saylock and the intellectual vigor of Portia. He appears to occupy nearly a central position between the relentless force of the one, and the finely developed, cultivated powers of the other. Contrasted with Shylock his character soars into sublimity. Compared with Portia his generosity does not suffer, but he appears lacking in the keen preception, the excellent judgment, the real executive ability which distinguish the latter, and which were so successfully employed in Antonio's behalf. Antonio is always surrounded by friends. He is the hope and stay of the needy and the prompt friend of the unfortunate hence unlike Shylock, when reverses crowd upon him he receives aid and encouragement where he least expects it and thus exemplifies the truth that "good deeds are never lost."

In Portia, Shakespeare has given us an ideal woman and one who is probably the most perfect female character ever delineated by the pen of the great dramatist. Her charming sprightliness, her pure and exalted principle, her strong sense of right, run like a thread of gold through the entire play. She possesses fine sensibilities and affections controlled by superior intellect. In the language of Jessica, the rude world hath not her fellow. The poet first exhibits her in the shadow of uncertainty, but when she secures the man of her choice, she beams upon us in all the sunshine of love.

Her wit is keen and swift as an arrow, but never unkind. She is unselfish in her love and resolute in her aims, and finally she shows the very essence of all womanly virtue in her tribute to "Mercy." Lex.



### ET TENEOR ET TENEOR.

How apt are we to accept the former and deny the latter—the one so flattering, the other so distasteful to human pride—the one involving a belief co extensive with the race, the other a fact the knowledge of which comes with bitter experience—the one implies that man is supreme, the other that forces exist outside and independent of him which may be ignored but never eliminated from the problem of existence, and that circumstances hedge him in and narrow his sphere of activity; yet however restless he may be under his mental and physical limitations the fact of their influence cannot be denied. *Teneo* may be the proud exclamation of a spirit that claims superiority and proprietorship; *teneor* the plaintive cry of the same spirit convinced of its own inferiority and impotence. Qualities really inherent, such as pity and affection are often included in the former, while their opposites, cruelty and hate are seldom acknowledged as belonging to the latter.

The ability to hate! What a possession! It is interesting though sad to watch its progress in a human life. The child inherits a family feud. The son of his father's enemy with supercilious action and bitter invective so goads his proud young spirit that the nervous arm obeys the impulsive will and his tormentor is stricken to the ground.

Starting with the propensity thus displayed, Robert Buchanan has traced its development until we see the boy, now a man, orphaned, broken hearted, deprived of all those broad ancestral acres on which his forefathers were wont to look with so much pride, every earthly prospect blighted, an alien to his kind. All this he blindly attributes to the work of his enemy, his only absorbing prayer being that God might give into his hands the man he hates, to deal with as he might wish. To obtain a glimpse of that heart now, is to see all the deadly passions lashed into a wild and furious rage, a sight from which we recoil shudderingly.

Behold the power of love! This man and his enemy are cast away on a lonely isle, a murderous design thwarted by the intervention of the elements. First the injured man feels a savage exultant joy in the helplessness of so hated a being, but after a time his heart yearns for companionship, opening a door for pity to creep in, pity for such utter wretchedness in a fellow mortal. In supplying his enemy's wants a feeling akin to tenderness is awakened in his heart, but is quickly suppressed; afterwards the sight of tears, forgiveness craved and the promise of a christian

burial besought, awaken love, which now comes forth in a new and beautiful creation. The climax comes, as bending over the scooped out grave on the snowy hillside where the poor attenuated form is resting—all that is left of his life-long enemy—the flood gates of his soul are swept away, and the fountains well over in tears, heart broken sighs, and a penitent's thanks giving that God had answered his prayer, and indeed given this man into his power to deal with him as he wished.

"There are strange soul depths" says one, "vast and deep, and broad, unfathomed as the sea." The wise and careful student seeks to fathom these soul depths, seeks to purify them, that lurking evil may be driven hence, that an altar, pure and without defilement, may be erected there on which the radiant light of a nobler spirit may glow, and send its lustre out into the busy, bustling world. As we stand in the lowlands of youthful hope and gaze in awe towards those glorious mountain tops of human greatness, gained by fellow mortals, we feel the stirrings of lofty ambition. They possess, and why should not we? And it is so, that a noble example inspires noble imitation. The up bounding, uplifting soul power must have scope. If not supplied, it is taken forcibly.

But can all in our life be included in *tenco*? What I have and what I can get is mine, says the student. Whence then cometh knowledge? Whence comes the ability to grasp and assimilate this knowledge? From myself? Rather indeed from a higher source. And it is even so, '*et tenco et tencor*.' "I both hold and am held," What I hold is mine, but I myself am held by another, even God.

LEE.

### Portals

Mud!

Cream!!!

Skates!!!

St. John!!!!

A certain Junior is said to be an authority on *Greenwich* time.

Three Seniors, a Soph, a Freshie and a Prop. spent their holidays in Chipman Hall.

The editors will be obliged to any student, graduate or friend for items of general interest. Information respecting any change in occupation of graduates is especially solicited, as in this matter we are entirely dependent,

A senior was walking briskly along the street the other evening when a peculiar specimen of the *genus homo* accosted him thus: "Say Mr how far is the poor house from here?" Senior (blandly) "Do'nt know Sir,—do'nt know—never was there." "Indeed," said the specimen incredulously, and giving his staff a malicious swing he moved on.

The following officers have been elected by the ATHENÆUM for the current term: President, H. T. Ross; Vice President, Wm. L. Hutchinson; Treasurer, I. W. Porter; Recording Sec, H. L. Day; Corresponding Sec, F. H. Porter; Executive Committee—H. S. Freeman, (Chairman.) E. M. Freeman, G. A. Wilson: Junior Editor of the ATHENÆUM, S. L. Walker, F. H. Leeds, A. K. DeBlis.

Horton Academy has a curiosity in the person of Mr. Fletcher, a blind student. He graduated from the Institution for the Blind, Halifax, in June, 1881 and has since been engaged in teaching music in various parts of the province. Though he has never been able to use his eyes in the acquisition of knowledge he possesses a fund of information that is truly surprising. He has a retentive memory, and in the absence of raised characters depends for his information on what is read to him.

The Academy rejoices in a dude. He does not wear eye-glasses as like the rest of the fraternity, but that does not matter as his unaided vision can take in more than he can easily comprehend. It must be comforting to him to know that he was recently the subject of a vigorous correspondence between two of his classmates. Their verdict is in possession of the local editor and will be returned with his compliments. Girls try again.

A want which the students of these institutions have long felt, a properly equipped gymnasium, has been supplied by the energy and perseverance of Messrs Day and DeBlis of the Junior classes who have spared neither means nor effort that suitable exercise might, at a moderate cost be placed within the reach of all. It is only just to those who have undertaken the responsibility of its success, that the students should all patronize the gymnasium and seek by their conduct and influence to maintain order and good feeling there.

Our university begins the year with encouraging prospects. It is not too much to say that in the history of the Institutions, the outlook has never been more favorable. Each of the departments is equipped for good service, and the material is at hand. As the classes are usually complete at or near the beginning of the college year, the number of students in the college remains substantially the same. Twenty have joined the classes in the Academy, making with those in attendance last term about fifty five. The Seminary begins the term with a very large attendance. This Institution is yearly becoming more popular. Miss Dudgeon retires from the teaching staff and her place, we understand, will be filled immediately. This large attendance in the three departments besides stimulating and encouraging them so immediately in charge cannot fail to afford gratification to every friend of the institution.