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The mellow year is hasting to its close,
The little birds have almost sung their last,
Their small notes twitter in the dreary blast.
The shrill-piped harbinger of early snows,
The patient beauty of the scentless rose,
Oft with the morn's hoar crystal faintly glassed
Hangs, a pale mourner, for the summer past,

And makes a little summer where it grows.
In the chill sunbeam of the faint brief day
The dusky waters shudder as they shine,
The russet leaves obstruct the straggling way
Of cosy brooks which no deep banks define
And the garnet woods in ragged scant array
Wrap their old limbs with sombre ivy twined.

HARTLEY COLEBRIDGE.

"The woods decay, the woods decay and fall,
The vapours weep their burthen to the ground."

TENNYSON.

"Calm and deep peace in this wide air
The leaves that redden to the fall."

IN MEMORIAM.

The Elective System in Education.

[A summary of an address delivered by President J. S. Schurman of Cornell University before the University Convocation at Albany in July.]

President Schurman said in part:—There would never have been a question of choice of studies if human knowledge had not advanced in many new directions, and in all directions, old as well as new, got beyond the power of any single human mind to compass it. It was perhaps still possible in the eighteenth century for an encyclopaedic mind to absorb all that was known by the civilized world; and, in an address to students, I once heard Mr. Gladstone say that Leibnitz was probably the last great man who achieved such a task. But even Leibnitz, were he to spend his lifetime in study, would remain ignorant of by far the greater number of subjects represented in the curriculum of a great modern university. In the presence of such an inexhaustible programme of studies, what is the average student to do?

First of all, he may ignore everything but Latin. Greek, mathematics, metaphysics, ethics, and natural philosophy. These were the staple subjects of the old-fashioned college curriculum; and a thorough training in them has potency to enlarge and cultivate the intellect, especially in its powers of analysis and deduction, and in some measure to develop and chasten the aesthetic emotion. But the student who deliberately closes his eyes to all other knowledge—to the English language and literature, history, economics, politics, modern languages, and literature, and to all the wealth of the physical, chemical and biological sciences—while he may be acting wisely, is certainly exercising a choice quite as arbitrary as that of his more radical “chum” who elects English, German, French, mathematics, psychology, and some of the sciences of nature, inorganic or organic. There has been a kind of tacit assumption in certain quarters that a student who walked in the old ways was not choosing his studies, while a student who departed from them and expatiated in the newer realm of knowledge was making such a choice; but in either case there is no escaping the task of selecting among many possible disciplines, and if the boy himself does not make the selection, his teacher or his college does.

Or, secondly, the student may ignore the traditions of the schools and elect such studies as tend to qualify him for his subsequent profession; chemistry, mathematics, and physics, if he is to be an engineer; botany, chemistry, physiology, anatomy, histology, and bacteriology, if he is to be a physician; history, political science, and constitutional law, if he is to be a lawyer; Greek, Hebrew, metaphysics, and ethics, if he is to be a clergyman; and whatever specialty he affects, if he is

day, Oct. 4th special sermons were preached in the Baptist Church, by the Rev. H. R. Hatch and Dr. Trotter, which were listened to by large congregations. On Wednesday, Oct. 8th the opening public lecture was delivered in college hall by Professor Chute, on the theme, "The New Book." This was a very noble lecture, a synopsis of which is given elsewhere in this issue of the ATHENÆUM. Professor Haycock did not return until some days after the opening, having been on the Pacific coast during the summer, in the employ of the Dominion government as a member of a geological survey. He returned bronzed and vigorous, and enthusiastic about his trip. Advantages from this trip will no doubt come to all the college.

The attendance at the Seminary is for the Fall Term, the largest in the history of the school. Sixty-eight have been enrolled as resident students. More than fifty have been enrolled as day pupils. The new appointments to the teaching staff, nine in number, are: W. H. A. Moore, Director of Piano; Louise T. Churchill, Piano; Emma F. Denham, Piano and Violin; Mabel Marvin, Voice; Margaret Lynds, Elocution; Cora P. Archibald, Domestic Science; Josephine O. Bostwick, English; C. M. Baird, Stenography; M. Blanche Bishop, French and German. These teachers have already demonstrated their efficiency in their various departments. The date for the Teachers' Recital has been placed on November 14th. A programme of variety and interest, as well as of artistic and educational value is being prepared, representing the Departments of Piano, Voice, Violin, Elocution. A most cordial welcome awaits those whom we are to hear for the first time. The Department of Domestic Science is proving very popular. About fifty students are enrolled from the Public Schools of Wolfville, and twenty-five from the Seminary Students. Arrangements are being perfected by which several lectures shall be delivered before the students of the Seminary during the year.

The outlook at the Academy is very hopeful this year. The enrollment to date is the largest in four years. There is a very marked improvement in the quality of the work done in the classroom, while the prayer-meetings and other religious exercises of the school are well attended. In athletics the school is able to give a very good account of itself. The staff has not so much difficulty as might be expected in arousing interest in this important department of educational work. Thirty students are preparing for college—a large number for the first term of the school year. That a large number of these are in the lower classes is a very hopeful feature.

The Manual Training Department is better equipped for work than ever before. Classes in Mechanical and Architectural drawing are about to begin. Opportunity has been given College students preparing for engineering to avail themselves of these classes.

DEPARTED.

“God has given quietness at last;” “sleep after toil, port after stormy seas,” came to our lips as Dr. D. F. Higgins was laid in his sleeping place. He found his work; he did it well; approval of the Lord of the vineyard is assured. Yes, he put sinewy vigor into his task; his elastic spirit thought not of drudgery; through his life ran the unfailing purpose.

I think of forty years of kindred work, of the interchange of thought and sympathy that took place during so long a period, of anniversary processions in which we so often walked side by side of lines so wedded in fellow-feeling and purpose that the stern work of life never weakened the tie,—and as I reflect my soul is strangely stirred. The past with all its stirring and hallowed memories comes up before me, and I feel very conscious that a most valued friend has crossed the river. I wish for adequate words to express my appreciation of this noble soul who is sleeping so peacefully after life's fitful fever. But the words come not yet to me “his soul is still audible, though not visible.” The eternal fountain is hidden from human eye. Hence the most cunning artists cannot paint the portrait. We shall briefly refer to a trait or two of him whose name is a household word in our denomination.

Dr. Higgins had a healthy soul. “A soul in right health is the thing before all others to be prayed for; the blessedest thing this earth receives of Heaven.” This is the kind of soul in which God loves to work, God is welcomed into his own dominion; under the plastic hand of the divine architect the soul grows and becomes beautiful. He of whom we write had no desire to mar or distort any of the handiwork of God, but was eager to leave the expansion of intellect of soul to the process of the silent and beautiful alchemy of the spirit of God.

The healthy mind has clarity of vision, conceptions, flashed with the light of related ideas stand out in a transparent atmosphere. Dr. Higgins had emphatically this clearness of thought, and with wonderous facility could lodge his conceptions in the mind of others. He was a lover of his chosen subject, mathematics. With a face all aglow with understanding and acquaintanceship he moved in the region of both pure and mixed mathematics. He luxuriated in those processes which lead the earnest students along in the footsteps of the great Designer. Yes, Dr. Higgins had a clear, logical mind; his grasp of the subjects of his department was strong and masterly; his

power to make luminous, subjects misty and difficult is a pleasant memory with all his students.

Dr. Higgins was a man of integrity. Adherence to principle was with him a master passion, strong in high principle and eagle eyed to detect sophistry, he swerved not from rigid adherence to what he believed to be sound and right. I have seen his eyes kindle with righteous indignation at what he deemed to be the slightest deviation from truth. Perfection is not claimed for him. He could be too much wedded to his own views, and might not always be sufficiently magnanimous towards those who differed with him in opinion. But he failed not to keep the windows of his soul open to receive light, and ever placed himself in the ranks of those open to conviction. We love the man none the less because he was not faultless: we love him the more. The perfect man was his ideal, and towards this he was ever moving. He was indeed a true and outright noble man. The true grandeur of any one lies in his character.

Space permits but a few words more. Dr. Higgins was a scholar in a sound and broad sense. His mind though conversant with even the deep things of mathematics was not limited to this study. He was versed in English literature and keenly sensitive in the beauties therein. He read with thoughtful care the articles in magazines and reviews which discussed the burning questions of the times, and was ready at short notice to state and defend his own views of these questions. To read French with ease and appreciation was one of his avocations. He had indeed the linguistic faculty. He was well grounded in the Greek and Latin literatures and languages, and was no tyro in Hebrew. He used the English language with singular skill and precision. No man of one idea was he. He took in whatever enobled and enriched his life. Thoroughness marked all that he did and studied. His was the unspeakable pleasure which springs from devotion to study, nor was he unmindful that the soul of the true seeker is wondrously benefitted by coming into contact with other minds. Someone has said that the love of study in us is the only eternal passion. His studies largely determine the man.

Dr. Higgins was a religious man, God wrought in him mightily and mellowed him. This is the explanation of a life so true and devoted. At God's school he learned that "the reward of one duty is the power to fulfill another." Our dear friend was not rich in this world's goods, but very rich in a good life. The invisible light within guided him and clarified his vision. That he helped to give his students clearer sight and the power to work is his imperishable monument. May our denomination never forget this noble man who for nearly four decades labored in sunshine and in storm to further our educational interests. "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

We regret to record the death of the Rev. Ralph M. Hunt of the class of 1879. Mr. Hunt died at Jamaica Plain, Mass on Oct 1st. He was son of the late Rev. A. S. Hunt, M. A. of the class of 1844.

After graduating at Acadia, Mr. Hunt took the Theological Course of Study of Newton Seminary and entered the Baptist Ministry. His most important pastorates were at St. Stephen, N. B., where he labored seven years and Jamaica Plains (Boston) Mass, where for twelve years he ably served the church from which the late Rev. A. J. Gordon, D. D. was called to Clarendon Street, Boston. This brief record of his ministry is sufficient proof of Mr. Hunt's ability and high character. His qualities of mind and heart admirably fitted him for large success in the pastorate. His devotion to his people was unusually complete and he won and retained their confidence and affection in a marked degree.

Mr. Hunt was always loyal to his College. By his contributions to its funds, his efforts on her behalf among friends in New England and by the faithfulness of his ministry he showed gratitude for her teaching and confidence in her mission. And he served his college perhaps still more by the fulness with which he embodied her ideals and purposes and lived and worked in her spirit. Apart from its graduates a college is only an idea. But if when men matriculate they may be said to get into College, when they leave her halls, if they have been responsive to her influences, the College is in them and so wherever they go thereafter the College goes with them. Thus they enter her life and affirm the value of her culture. Mr. Hunt's aims, spirit and devotion showed that his college course was not in vain. He was loved and honored by the many to whom he ministered and his Alma Mater unites with them in deploring his loss and casts a sprig of laurel on his comparatively early grave.

At the funeral in Dartmouth, where the interment took place, appreciative addresses were made by Dr. Kempton, Dr. Keirstead, Rev. W. J. Armitage, (Rector of St. Paul's) and Rev. John Dustan, (Presbyterian).

It becomes our duty to note the passage into the beyond of another of our Alumni. On October sixth Israel Manning Longley, after an exceeding brief illness, passed away at his home in Paradise, Annapolis Co.

Mr. Longley was a member of the class of 1875, and while at College distinguished himself by his exceeding high scholarship. In his chosen career of teaching Mr. Longley met with singular success, ruling in the hearts of his pupils and endearing all to himself with the singular attractiveness of a lovely disposition, while he was respected as one of uncommon mental power. He has been for several years a licentiate of the Baptist denomination, who have lost a strong pillar in the departure of our beloved teacher. The ATHENÆUM extends its sympathy to his son, a member of the class of '01, and the bereaved family.
