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THE
Acadia Athenæum.

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The Sanctum.

OUR Secretary-Treasurer upon assuming charge of the finances of this paper, opened up a private correspondence with a large number of our subscribers. Thus far the communications have been mainly one-sided. Those of our patrons to whom he has written will do well to call to mind his modest request, consider our needs, and make an early reply, with the necessary enclosures of course. If those with whom he has not communicated will anticipate his intentions, we will take it as a still greater favor.

THE Athenæum Society has at length come into possession of its new apartments. The change from the old to the new reading room is most desirable. The present room is large, bright, and convenient in every respect. It now remains with the students to show their appreciation of the privileges for which they so long agitated by co-operating with the executive committee, in carrying out the regulations to make the reading room what it is designed

to be. With a supply of more than one hundred of the leading papers and magazines in our present quarters, if the students play the part of gentlemen, there need be no cause of complaint.

DALHOUSIE has made a change in the manner of honoring her liberal benefactor, Mr. George Munro. The change is a good one, we believe, and likely to awaken a more general interest in Dalhousie's welfare among the citizens of Halifax, and the province in general. Our representatives—Messrs. Hutchins and Gates—reported the "At Home" as a decided success, and as evincing that considerable time and artistic skill had been employed in preparation for the event. And why should it not be so? Who is more worthy of esteem and honor than the benefactor of higher education? Acadia congratulates you, Dalhousie, and hopes that before long the number of such men as you have lately so worthily and efficiently honored may be greatly increased.

THE meetings of the educational convention held in Halifax during the last days of December, were important ones. Several subjects relating to the public and high school systems were thoroughly ventilated, and some important measures taken towards reform. While others of the colleges of the maritime provinces were represented by one or more of their leading men, who thus showed their interest in our provincial school system, it was a noticeable feature that Acadia College was not to the front. While Acadia has had much to do in moulding and developing the present public school systems, both of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it is apparent that in this direction there is less public spirit manifested now than formerly on the part of her professors. The connection between the public school and the college is an important and vital one; and where any advances are to be made by the former, it is eminently fitting that college officials should take the lead. Is Acadia satisfied to leave this work in the hands of others?

IT has been whispered that collegians make a selfish audience. This we think needs some modification; but in one particular line it does seem that they have merited the imputation. The business of encoring has been reduced to a science, and a few individuals with rustic palms control the monopoly. While an entertainment may be of high order, it is not necessary for success that every piece should be encored. Does it not show a lack of consideration to those providing entertainment to establish a practice which does away with the real import of the custom? We believe in encores within the bounds of moderation, but as exercised by the students this year upon more than one occasion we must certainly demur. It showed too much selfishness. We speak for the general good.

IN another column will be found a communication from the pen of A. J. Pineo, B. A. '81, on the abolition of the time-honored junior expedition. Acadia has few graduates who can speak with greater weight on this subject. As an undergraduate, Mr. Pineo was known to be an enthusiastic geologist. Since graduating he has taken a course in scientific studies at one of the leading American universities, and, though a journalist, has since devoted much of his time to scientific research. As a teacher in Mineralogy at the the Provincial Summer School of Science, he has led his pupils on many successful expeditions, and is therefore eminently qualified to know whereof he affirms. The arguments he advances are well taken and are worthy of the consideration of the Senate.

The immediate cause of the abolition was, we believe, the failure of the class of '91 to carry out the plans laid for the expedition to a successful issue. At a meeting of the Board of Senators in October last, a committee from the students requested an audience, and *seven minutes* was granted for the presentation and discussion of the arguments of the students. Needless to say the presentation was made by the committee, but alas for the consideration of it!

We again wish to urge upon the Senate the importance of reconsidering their action. This "backward step" is certainly a cause of regret to all interested in true scientific instruction at Acadia; but we sincerely trust that after due reconsideration of the importance of this subject, the motto of our *Alma Mater* will once more be *Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum*.

WHAT does Acadia stand most in need of? This question must suggest itself to every member of our denomination who has the interests of advanced education at heart, and who would see our institutions keep pace with the times. What then is our greatest need? In looking over the somewhat lengthy catalogue we see one, which without question stands prominently forward—a stone building for library and museum purposes. For the past three or four years there has been an increasing demand for better college accommodations. The authorities through no fault of their own, have been compelled to utilize two of the college building rooms for the museum and library. The problem comes up with increasing force when we realize that next year the professor-elect in Physics and Astronomy, in order to do the most efficient work, must have another room for his lectures. Where shall a suitable one be found? Not a difficult problem if these two rooms are available, a matter of selection and adjustment. There are other considerations which must be taken into account. The library, while receiving a considerable shock from the fire of '77, has again by slow but steady growth reached very creditable degree of development. We have a large amount of valuable works, worth thousands of dollars, as good an arts library as there is in the maritime provinces, if not the best. Suppose fire should again visit us, are these volumes in such a position as renders them secure from the devouring element? We think not, and are inclined to believe that a very small per cent. could be saved in such a devoutly not to be wished for event. The same is equally true of the museum. Valuable collections of specimens from all parts of the globe have found their way to its cases; are these to be continually exposed to the same danger? How is this to be avoided? Simply enough; a separate stone library and museum building will remove the danger. The value of these two departments to the student can hardly be reckoned. Books have been placed upon our shelves, the loss of which would be incalculable. Now comes the important part. Granted that such a building is a necessity, how are we going to secure it? Less than one year ago the suggestion to have a gymnasium began to take practical form. In less than one year from now we expect to see the ladies new seminary proudly taking rank with the other structures on the Hill. What has been achieved in the past may and must in our case hold good for the future. We can conceive of no better way in which some one or more of our Baptist friends, who have been blessed with an abundance of this world's goods, could confer a lasting benefit upon their fellow men, upon the advancement of true education, and the denomination at large, than by erecting such a building as we need. It will be a worthy monument for the present and future generations, which will cherish in grateful remembrance the name of the generous giver.

Literary.

MACBETH.

A rib of Shakespere makes a Milton, a rib of Milton all other English poets.

When the glory of her Periclean age was stimulating the English mind, some mode of expression must be found. The cold simplicity of Grecian sculpture could not satisfy; neither could the emotional pleasures of Italian music; but the drama with its actions and feelings of men and women in real life. Although all poetry must be imitative of life, the drama seems to reach the inner treasury of nature. In the hand of its great master it placed upon the stage specimen individuals with lives laid open to perusal, or, to use another figure, it placed before us mirrors in which we see reflected the unknown contour of our hearts.

Among the great dramatist's many and varied characters, we find none more transparent than that of Macbeth. Here is none of the ambiguity of Hamlet, but every feature is shown in plainest type. The history of this character is of intense interest. Had a born villain, such as Iago, been chosen to act the part of Macbeth, we should scarcely have kept our eyes open during the play. Horrible deeds would have been the foregone conclusion. On our introduction we find a man of tender conscience, with a strong impulse to deal honorably by his friends. We believe him one of the many, who could they have paid the full price of gain in one instalment, would never have invested. She who knew him best says—

"Thy nature is too full o' the milk of human kindness;
Art not without ambition . . . but without
The illness should attend it . . . would not play false
And yet would wrongly win."

Hawthorne has observed: "There is evil in every human heart which may remain latent through life; or may be roused by circumstances to activity." The latent evil in Macbeth is ambition; the circumstances his own success and the simplicity of Duncan.

The struggle is closed between his better nature and mental weakness on the one hand, and ambition together with the pricking of his wife upon the other. At one time, moved by cowardice and the lavish kindness of the king, he decided to abandon the desperate enterprise; but the next moment the

opposing forces gain the permanent mastery. The stifling cry of the good:—

"False faces must hide what the false heart doth know,"
reminds one of the expression of Brutus when on his way to the fatal senate:—

"That every like is not the same, O Caesar,
The heart of Brutus yearns to think upon."

The progress in degeneration has been well indicated:—

"Oh! what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive."—*Marmion*.

We have the last glimpse of conscience in Macbeth where the murderer cannot say "Amen" to the sleeper's "God bless us." If, as some theologians argue, a soul in its evil course may pass a moral Cape Ann from which return is impossible, our subject has now gone beyond this fatal point. Henceforth he is wholly given over to evil. How swift the course of moral poisoning! He who had to be urged on to the very thrust of the dagger is now carrying out, unknown to his life's companion, dreadful deeds.

"Which must be acted ere they may be scanned."

Our pity is aroused for the poor creature who, with "soul full of scorpions," and bewildered by the difficulties gathering around him, curses the servant by whom he is informed of Malcolm's approach. Amid these misfortunes comes the news of the death of Lady Macbeth, for whom we must believe he had held real affection. Notice the strong analogy between Macbeth's conduct on this occasion and that of Brutus under similar circumstances at Philippi. But the former is the apathy of one steeped in crime; the latter the stoic endurance of a brave man.

Yet the heaviest blow was still to come. His last pillar of support was to fall with crushing weight upon himself. Thus far, he had been sustained by the assurance from the "weird sisters" that he should never be vanquished till Burnham wood should move to Dunsinane, and that he should not be harmed by one horn of woman. Now he beholds the moving forest and meets MacDuff "not of woman born." Yet he will not yield to heaven or earth. There is an element of the sublime in the way in which Macbeth clings to his joyless existence. He fights for life; not as the gallant general of Duncan's forces, but with a fierce and brute-like madness.

To what extent the author intended the acts of

Macbeth to be affected by the supernatural, is difficult to determine. Such influence is familiar to the student of Shakespere, as it holds an important place in almost every plot. The ghost of Hamlet's father appears demanding vengeance against his murderous brother and unfaithful wife; Cæsar consults the gods, and Hermione appeals to the judgment seat of great Appolo. The appearance of Banquo's ghost we may attribute to an excited imagination. But upon the sober testimony of the two generals we are bound to accept the story of the witch scenes. Their effect upon Macbeth is bad. It is immediately after an interview with them that we get the first hint of the plan to murder the king, and the insane purpose to destroy the family of the escaped MacDuff follows their last conference. Every human being is liable to suggestions—whether he attribute them to satan or his own evil nature—which prompt toward evil deeds. If Shakespere was endeavoring to illustrate this truth his witches served admirably.

In the history of Macbeth Shakespere steps into the sphere of a moralist, and in harmony with the original aim of the English drama becomes a great religious instructor. The lesson which he teaches is the effect of yielding to the evil within our own hearts, and within the hearts of those around us.

THE BORDERLAND IN BIOLOGY.

In a person's experience apparent trifles occur which, though quite natural in the course of events, it is necessary to rank among the great events of a lifetime: such an one having a marked effect in changing the current of my life I am about to relate.

I had taken train at Carrick-on-Shannon en route for Dundalk; the slow drip drip of the rain from the roof of the carriage beat a dreary tattoo to the wailing of the wind. As I glanced round the compartment, in which the guard had shut me with a slam that bespoke a disposition to immolate me to the deity which seemed to dominate at the same time his mind and the weather, I noticed a middle-aged woman bearing unmistakable traces of the land freed from the toad and snake by St. Patrick. I soon wearied of observing my companion, however, and turning the seat into which I had thrown myself, sat staring out at the window, too listless to notice the shifting

scenes of the flying landscape. How long I sat thus I know not, but I was roused by a sudden halt. I proceeded to acquaint myself with the locality whereat we so unexpectedly drew up, and a more dismal, uninhabitable region could not well be imagined; bleak open moors, covered with a scanty growth of shaggy gorse, interspersed at frequent intervals with dark pools of stagnant water.

The occasion of our halt was soon made apparent by the guard's opening the door to admit a third party to our company. He was somewhat below medium height, with keen eyes peering out from under overhanging brows that reminded one of steep cliffs crowned with a thick irregular growth of underwood. His dress consisted of a blouse and knickerbockers of coarse gray frieze, while from the tops of his heavy brogues to his knees his legs were incased in a many folded wrapping of twisted straw as a protection against the wet and mud of the heaths, and topping all was a broad-brimmed Kossuth hat which shed great drops of moisture over everything within range. A microscope was strapped to his shoulder, and from his left arm depended an osier basket which he deposited at his feet.

Glancing at the basket I saw that it contained a motley assortment of oyster cans partly filled with mud, and small bottles filled with turbid water, evidently taken from the pools before mentioned, for green slime might be seen floating in some of them, and mingled indiscriminately, were many species of water plants.

I felt a glow of satisfaction run through my veins at meeting a naturalist who in his enthusiasm prosecuted his researches, regardless of discomfort or opposing circumstances. I afterwards learned that he was Herr Weidman, Professor of Zoology at Marburg, the nursery of the mind of Burnsen. I had been called upon to prepare a paper on the borderland in biology to be read before the scientific institute when a number of literary persons, bearing no small portion of the alphabet after their names, were to be present. I decided to surreptitiously seek some information on my subject, and so I began.

"Sir I believe that to fate I shall always remain a debtor for this meeting. I devote much of my leisure to the study of biology and I perceive that you are a naturalist." Keenly regarding me, he without a word, unstrapped his microscope, and

stooping down lifted the basket to a position between our knees. He gazed meditatively at his treasures a moment, then fetching a sigh of satisfaction he remarked, "yes a fine collection, a fine collection." And taking up a phial he handed it and the microscope to me saying as he did so, "look." Putting a drop from the phial in the microscope and adjusting it, I beheld the water swarming with the most varied forms of life imaginable, swimming singly or in schools, and carefully avoiding each other when they met. Removing the microscope after a lengthened survey of this aggregation of life, I turned to my companion and encountered the interrogation, well what! I recounted the several most remarkable species of animalcula, the most numerous being the colpoda cuculis. Did you notice no other than these? Yes a great number of monad-like organisms, having two cilia, one of which it used for propulsion, while the other seemed to serve the purpose of a tail to a kite, What do you think they are? The young of the colpoda probably. "No," said he, smiting his hands together exultingly, "that's Huxley's protegee Heteromita Lens," and he looked at me with beaming eyes. You see, he continued, this monad was discovered associated with the colpoda in an infusion of hay, by Tyndall, who sent it to Huxley to examine, and I am the only one who has ever discovered it in pools of water.

The difference as you know between the heteromita and colpoda, is in their manner of alimentation, for colpoda may be fed like chickens since they devour organic substances, but the heteromita takes no solid food. I tell you that phial's a treasure, a treasure sir. I was not disposed to attempt to convince him of the impossibility of his conclusion, for I feared to anger him or at least disturb his self satisfied frame of mind; but since no one else had ever discovered a heteromita in such circumstances, I mentally resolved not to accept it. So I merely inquired, "what do you believe to be the basis of separation between plants and animals?" Alimentation, said he, emphatically, there is no other (though some try to disprove that); plants not only have brain power and sensation, but they actually see. See!! I ejaculated. Yes see, he answered. Let me give you an example. One day last week my friend Wheatstone was sitting on his verandah reading;

happening to glance down he saw one of the tendrils of the vine covering the lattice, slowly bend over and grasp his foot; surprised at so strange a procedure on the part of the plant he gently removed the tendril, placing his foot at some distance; after the tendril had returned to its former position, Wheatstone replaced his foot, when the same performance was immediately repeated. Finally he removed his foot entirely, and the tendril then stretched out towards the lattice, but failing to reach that, it after a few uncertain or deprecatory movements subsided to a state of rest. Now how do you explain that. I could only reply by shaking my head, and he continued, "you are aware that Aristotle's distinction, Animals feel—plants do not, was the ultimatum of biology until the time of Cuvier. Today the edifices they both erected are in the dust, only vacant sites remaining, upon which no one has builded.

The Dionaea Muscipula makes Aristotle's distinction rubbish: for if a fly alights upon its leaf, or the slender filaments growing out of its lobes be touched by the finest hair, the leaf closes instantly: is not that like a snail's shrinking into its shell when its antennæ are touched? Or does it differ much from the closing of a sleeping child's hand upon some object placed within it? How do you, said I, account for this action on the part of the Dionaea and other so-called sensitive plants? Only by the presence of nerves, and the microscope has shown that all plants possess a network of finely divided protoplasmic fibres, the same material as animal nerve permeating their whole structure, and besides the substance of the Dionaea exhibits the same electrical changes after contraction as animal tissue.

Here a long pause ensued, my companion burying himself in deep meditation. Indeed a train of thought had been started in my own mind, and well known facts appeared in new light. Finally I began: surely of all Cuvier's distinction some remain. Not one he answered, his first that animals alone have an alimentary cavity is contradicted by the pitcher plant's structure and habits. His second that only animals possess a circulatory system is no longer tenable, for every one knows that though the plants' circulatory system is simple, yet it is most perfect. His third and fourth that all plants inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen, and that only animal

substance, is nitrogenous fade before the facts that fungi inhale oxygen giving out carbonic acid, and nitrogen is essential alike to animal and vegetable. I believe, added I, that all plants removed from the sunlight treat air as an animal does, inhaling oxygen and giving out carbonic acid, not being able to decompose this gas, except by the action of sunlight upon their chlorophyl. the green colouring matter of their leaves.

Yes, all in the dust, began he, locomotion is no longer considered a characteristic of animals: certain algae produce zoospores similar to the heteromita, (here he gazed complacently at the phial which I still held in my hand). But are not those algae thought to partake of the nature of both plants and animals, I enquired. It was thought so formerly, said he, now nobody believes that any such organism exists. Those zoospores after swimming around some little time, fix themselves to the rock and grow up individual algae: their alimentation throughout is that of plants. Then the peronospora infestans as you are aware bears spores upon its slender branches or hyphæ. Those spores at maturity fall from the parent bough upon the potato leaf, and swim in the moisture clinging there, to it an ocean; at the end of two hours it settles down in life, and penetrating the living substance of the potato grows up a complete hyphæ. The peronospora had a busy time of it and became quite a factor in politics in 1845, when it blighted nearly all the potatoes in Ireland leaving the poor—"Be off wid yer lyn' ye spalpeen for wasn't it Fergus O. For a nayhered forninst me dure since the time of his granfayther an all his faythers before him. Its an illigant jintleman he is an wouldn't be afther hurten the tates at all. Sure it was. Fayther O'Flannagan towld me man Tim at the liction how the English, bad cess to em, brought over the tatie rot and forgathu."

Hereupon I with true English politeness gave one glance at the irate speaker, who was standing up in the carriage gesticulating wildly, then turning I looked out at the window, and composed my countenance as nearly as I could to convey the impression that I was coming over a text from which I expected to address a congregation the following Sabbath. My companion, however, rose and bowing to the incensed woman said, "pardon me madam, we were not speaking of your friend whom I know and respect most

highly, but of another of the same name that remained in Ireland only one summer." The lady seemed to consider this a sufficient apology, for she sat down. My companion also resumed his seat, and taking up the microscope he began to examine the waterplants. After some time he broke off a portion of one and placing it in the microscope he gave it me without a word. I placed the instrument to my eye and discovered what looked like an elegant green star growing out of the weed. Ah, said I, that's the coleochete is it not? Yes, and a true plant, he answered; and though it grows upon another plant it is not parasitic since it derives sustenance from the surrounding waters. It reproduces itself in the same manner as the algae or the potato blight, which is after all a questionable plant since it finds its protein ready made. How do you I asked apply the principle of alimentation to the determining whether a structure is plant or animal? Well, said he, take for example the bean; if it be planted in water to which salts of ammonia, carbonic acid, potash, lime, iron and phosphoric acid are added, the bean will in due time blossom and bear a full harvest vastly greater than the original seed, but the increment of the bean is exactly equivalent to the decrement of the substances supplied in the water. So you see the bean has derived its nutriment from elemental substances; or if to the water prepared for the bean a drop containing bacteria be added, the whole in a short time becomes filled with bacterium stuff, and what was before elemented substance is now protein, amyloid, etc. An animal treated to the same fare would soon starve from inability to assimilate the raw material; his food must be organic; all forms that subsist under the same conditions as the bean are plants; all others are animals. The plant is the producer, the builder; the animal the destroyer, the devourer, the arch-autocrat, exacting tribute from the whole vegetable world. On one side of the heteromita are colpoda and many species of animalcula cousins in the flesh; on the other the coleochete, algae and bacteria cousins in the plant; from this point both expressions of life diverge by easy stages in manifold series. He paused evidently expecting some comment, but as I remained silent, he continued, apparently speaking to himself.

Life—Life—In the time when earth was young, and continents mere narrow strips of land, the restless

ocean pacing up and down his narrow beaches, the murmuring winds and the slow throbbing earth herself sang together a song of prophecy. A song whose burden was "soon shall be seen in the earth a mystery; a mystery." Life, was that prophecy's fulfilment; life before which in either manifestation, plant or animal, every thoughtful person must stand in awe, feeling it to be the expressed thought of God. To the naturalist life is a vast hollow valley, with gently sloping sides; upon the utmost verge of one are stationed the highest forms of plants, their next in kin in the rank below. On the corresponding height, preëminent over all created things, stands man, with the brute creation ranged rank on rank, adown the slope; these two series descend until they meet in the valley, where the most careful investigation discloses no change of level; there lies a debatable territory; a sort of no man's land—the Borderland in Biology.

Just here the train drew up at a small town, the name of which I've forgotten, and as the guard opened the door, my fellow traveller bade me good-bye, and arranging his scraps on his shoulder, he picked up his basket, and I last saw him striding down the platform, quite oblivious of the cries around him of cab! have a cab, sir? cab, ho!

I. C.

Contributed.

THE JUNIOR EXPEDITION.

I have learned with deep regret that the governing body of Acadia have decided to abolish that time-honored and most excellent custom—the Junior Expedition. The loyalty of Acadia's sons to their *alma mater* has long been a matter of comment. However far removed from the time and scenes of their student life within her walls, they never cease to hold a deep interest in her welfare, and I am sure that many an alumnus who has himself enjoyed the pleasure and experienced the benefit of the usual expedition made during his college career will regret this backward step on the part of the governors of the institution.

When it was learned last spring through the press that the best laid plans of the then Junior class had miscarried, and their expedition had become an

impossibility, sympathy was felt for them and expressed on all sides, and especially by graduates of earlier years. It was indeed hoped that not only would the Junior class of the next year be more fortunate but that the class of '91 would also be able to redeem their lost privilege before closing their career at Acadia.

I am unaware by what arguments the governing body of the college convinced themselves of the wisdom of abolishing the expedition. They well know that increased importance is year by year being attached to science studies, and that the necessity of teaching and studying the various subjects pertaining thereto in a practical way is universally recognized. The mathematician may work out the most abstruse problems in a cell or Diogenes may philosophize in a tub; the linguist may revel among the gods and heroes of ancient days, in the privacy of his inner sanctum but the days of the closet naturalist have long since passed. Those who would learn of nature must seek their knowledge and their inspiration in direct association with her visible forms. Botany must be studied in field and forest, the would-be geologist must visit cliff and cutting and ravine, and the student of mineralogy finds his most profitable lessons among seams and crevices of the rocks themselves.

Other educational institutions are recognizing the importance of natural science studies and of having them taught with the students face to face with the objects studied. Our system of public instruction requires not the teaching of the technicalities of science, but that the pupils in our schools be made acquainted with the plants, animals, rocks and minerals of their respective neighborhoods. The Summer School of Science, which held its first session at Wolfville, owes its success to the fact that its class rooms are in the fields, among the cliffs and by the sea-shore. Others of our colleges have been of late imitating the example of Acadia, and have been sending their students off under charge of their Science professors, to study nature out of doors. It is reserved for the Baptist College at Wolfville, with its one efficient but overworked Science professor, while other institutions show signs of progress, to take a backward step.

The reasons why Acadia should continue these annual expeditions are numerous. She owes it to

her Natural History professor who is eminently desirous of accomplishing for his classes all that lies in his power. She owes it to her students, for the opportunity is one that in the case of many will never be repeated. Blomidon, apart from its historic and poetic interest and its magnificent scenery, is a unique field for the geologist and mineralogist. A day at Partridge Island is better than months of class work, while in the vicinity Two Islands, lessons in Geology can be learned that cannot be learned anywhere else in the world. Five Islands, Cape d'Or, Isle Haut, each has its peculiar revelation for the student, while the Carboniferous strata of Apple River, Spicer's Cove, The Joggins, and the coal mines of the latter place are full of instruction and interest to the earnest student. Acadia owes it to the people that she maintains the customary expedition. Was not the old museum, built up by the devoted labors of professors Chipman, Elder, and Kennedy, a thing of pride to every friend of the college? It was by means of these expeditions, which in these latter days the college fathers seem to despise, that the old museum was made what it was and the best material of the new museum was secured. Situated as Acadia is, on the border of such an interesting field—a field of peculiar interest to geologists and mineralogists throughout the world, it is not strange that visitors to Wolfville from abroad, should visit the Museum of Acadia and expect to find the geology and mineralogy of this region at least well represented there. Just at the present time they would probably be disappointed, and with the abandonment of the Junior expedition the disappointment of future visitors will probably not be lessened.

Acadia could and should have the best equipped Museum in Canada, not excepting the Redpath Museum at Montreal, and right loyally would any student and alumnus contribute to that end if enthusiasm were not repressed by such evidence of lack of interest on the part of the College authorities, as we have lately witnessed.

I will venture the hope, Messrs. Editors, that the step taken by the Governors may yet be retraced, and that in the future, much more fully indeed than in the past our loved College may improve the privilege she enjoys of having at her doors one of the most interesting and productive fields for natural science investigation to be found in the world.

A. J. PINEO.

Miscellaneous.

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

The Acadia Athenæum society has much cause for the self gratulations in which it has indulged since Friday evening, Jan. 23. On the evening in question the society was able to present to the public in the capacity of lecturer, Mr. J. G. Bourinot, L.L. D., C. M. G., F. R. S., of Ottawa, clerk of the House of Commons.

The learned lecturer, who has acquired no small fame as an author, chose for his subject, Responsible Government in Canada. He expressed his approval because of the presence of so many ladies, declaring that what is instructive to men is beneficial to women, notwithstanding the fact that politics is not considered her domain. The speaker went on to say that the study of political science and history should receive particular attention at the universities, and that there, teachers should be trained in the principles of politics in order that they may become a power in training the public mind in the affairs of government. Referring to history, he declared the victory on the Plains of Abraham to be one of the greatest events recorded in the annals of time; a victory which transferred the ownership of a continent, and led to the loss of so large a portion immediately afterward.

The lecturer sketched rapidly the growth of constitutional government, from the rule of a few inefficient clerks in Downing Street, to the complete and noble structure of free government which to-day obtains in Canada. Referring to our own much revered Joseph Howe as the ablest exponent of responsible government the world has ever known, and the happy method adopted by him for its accomplishment, he called upon Canadians to have faith in themselves and the institutions so valiantly fought for. England's chief glory, said the speaker, arises from the proud position of her colonies. A comparison was instituted between the governmental systems of Canada and the United States, and the relative freedom of the speakers of the houses pointed out. The permanency of the senate across the border was made to appear as the chief hindrance to the people's opinion being regarded, no matter how forcibly expressed at the hustings.

A tribute was paid to the United Empire Loyalists, whose names in the land of their adoption, are perpetuated by headland, lake and mountain top:

We feel assured that we are expressing the sentiments of all present when we declare the evening to have been a most enjoyable one. The Doctor's geniality and pleasant humour gained the immediate and hearty sympathy of his hearers. The thanks of the Society and audience were tendered to Dr. Bourinot by C. B. Freeman, president of the Athenæum Society, who in a neat little speech assured him in his own phraseology that he had won the jury.

ATHLETICS.

The utility and necessity of Athletics for college students needs no advocacy at Acadia. The subject in general is almost a hackneyed one. Yet, if figures speak the truth, there is a certain phase of college athletics which will bear a few words.

College sports are not self-sustaining. The energy expended is unproductive. Hence the fact that opportunities for the practice of athletics exist in our midst can only be explained on the supposition of voluntary contribution. Wisely or unwisely, the "powers that be" have generously left to us the raising and disbursing of these funds—the supplying of power and running of the machinery of athletics. That this machinery is hidden to the majority of the students we conclude as we notice the disparity between the meetings of the Athenæum and the Acadia Amateur Athletic Association. How many of the students of college and academy know the full import to themselves of those letters—A. A. A. A.? Know henceforth that they symbolize the organization to which you are indebted for whatever opportunities for field sports you may have enjoyed here during the past few months.

This is the only society existing, with the approval of the college authorities, for the maintenance of field sports. It is the one society of Acadia which is recognized by, and has representation in the "Maritime Province Football Union." In the A. A. A. A. are merged the old football, baseball, and cricket clubs; and it has also absorbed the more recently organized lacrosse club. All too completely absorbed has the last been, we fear, for we notice with regret

the absence of interest in that one distinctively Canadian game.

These, then, are the facts. *Two hundred* athletic young men. An athletic association with aims and manner of working approved by the Faculty, and for all practical purposes endowed with the University Campus. With plenty of men, plenty of machinery, and plenty of room, we certainly have all the factors necessary for the purpose. But, let it be remembered, factors by themselves are useless. To get results there must be combination. And "there's the rub," for only *sixty* of these *two hundred* men are members of the Athletic Association.

This fact is suggestive. Do only these *sixty* take part in any of the sports? Do the remaining *one hundred and forty* abstain entirely? An affirmative answer would reveal a lamentable state of affairs. A negative response involves facts of another character, but quite as lamentable.

Let us investigate. Take the *seventy-five* men who composed the class football teams of College and Academy. Add twenty-five, a low estimate of the number who played football in addition to those on the teams, and we have *one hundred* football players. By hypothesis forty of these do not belong to the Association. Take also the baseball players, and those who might wish to use the apparatus of the Association in jumping, vaulting and pitching quoits, and how are they increased—these non-associational athletes, who wish the privileges of the Association, but who seem quite willing to forego the responsibilities of membership. It appears evident that during the past term sixty individuals furnished athletics for themselves, and *at least sixty others* who were, we must assume, equally able with them to bear the expense.

The facts have been plainly stated, but of course facts never offend. There is certainly something wrong somewhere. Either the A. A. A. A. is not fitted to do the work it undertakes, or the students who take part in the sports are wrong in not supporting the Association.

Certainly no man, without membership has any better right to the privileges of the Athletic Association than to the privileges of the Athenæum or Lyceum. It is manifestly unfair for a minority to provide means of recreation and exercise for the majority. With co-operation the individual tax may be light, and yet the Association be upon a firm financial basis. The ordinary apparatus may be provided and a surplus remain for such purposes as improving the campus. As matters stand now the Association is in

debt; and yet the members are not quite prepared to tax themselves further in paying for privileges so largely shared by others.

Ye delinquents! think not that because your term-bills say nothing of baseball and field-days, that therefore baseball can be played and field-days held without cost. Recognize your need of athletics, recollect your desire to participate in the sports of the Association; and wait not for the Treasurer to canvass you, neither require time to read all the constitution and by-laws before you affix your signature and pay your cash.

F. B. C.
C. B. Freeman

Our Societies.

Missionary.—The last public meeting of Acadia Missionary Society was held in College Hall on Sunday evening, Jan. 18. A. C. Kempton read an excellent paper on Medical Missions. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. MacDonald, Corey, and Stackhouse, and music furnished by the Seminary quartette.

At the last business meeting officers were appointed for the ensuing term as follows: President A. C. Kempton; Vice do., O. P. Goucher; Secretary, J. E. Bill, Jr.; Treasurer, R. E. Gullison.

The volunteers have organized themselves into mission bands, whose object it is to visit several churches in the vicinity which may desire their assistance for the purpose of discussing several phases of Mission work.

F. M. C. A.—The address on the "Vicarious Sacrifice of Christ," delivered by Prof. Keirstead on Sunday, the 25th ult., was much appreciated. The professor's words are always a source of inspiration, and were especially so on this occasion.

The interest in Bible study continues unabated. The average attendance in the college classes numbers about 50.

Literary.—Following are the officers of the Athenæum for the present quarter: President, C. B. Freeman, '91; Vice do., H. B. Hogg, '92; Treasurer, A. C. Jost, '93; Cor. Sec'y., W. D'A. Lombard, '93; Rec. Sec'y., B. K. Daniels, '94; Executive Committee, T. J. Locke, '91; W. Holloway, '91; G. E. Chipman, '92; R. D. Bently, '93; Len. Wallace, '94.

It was the good fortune of the Society to listen to a lecture from J. G. Bourinot, LL. D., C.M.G., Clerk of the House of Commons, on the evening of the 23rd ult. The Chairman of the Lecture Committee informs us that other good lectures may be expected during the year.

Social.—The latest social organization to take definite shape on the Hill is the Timjinsonian Club. Its present membership embraces a select few, who, upon initiation, are subjected to a series of thorough examination. The phiphon test is an extremely rigid one, resembling in its severity the ordeal system of feudal times. One candidate for membership was black-beaned, it is said, on account of a habit of early rising, which he unfortunately formed in youth. Official reports, however, say that the real cause of rejection was the inability of the applicant to stand the minimum number of straight "hahds," which is placed at sixteen. The present officers are: Fletcher, Pres.; Litch, Sec'y.; Treas.; Locke, Phiphon Manipulator; Gates, Choirester.

Athletic.—It is a cause of regret that the Jackstonians have not been able to carry on the league games to which those interested so long and ardently looked forward. A trunk belonging to the ex-president, which contained the necessary apparatus, was during the holidays carried by mistake to P. E. I., and has not yet turned up. Upon its return to Wolfville it is expected that the club will resume this purely Acadian game with pristine vigor.

Exchanges.

King's College Record came out late! We have been reading a ghost story therein. It is the tale of an old German trapper, who has a remarkable tendency to use oratory, and such novel phrases as "dull, sickening thud," etc. We fail to understand where he obtained his glorified diction, as he does not seem to have been even a general student at King's.

We are not inclined to dispute the *Dalhousie Gazette's* re-adjustment of the "A" Licence list in the *Journal of Education*, as their sources of information are not open to us. Still, we venture to suggest that the repulacion which does not permit an applicant's name to be listed until he has actually received his certificate is not unjust. Of course we, like the rest of the public, had only official information upon which to base our statements. And without doubt the "lost leader" will have an equally good chance to head the list next year.

The article on "The Bible as a Text-Book in Colleges" is a clear and clever presentation of the claims of the authorized version to occupy a place in the department of English.

The *Colby Academy Voice* is a bright, well printed paper. "Questions," a poem in the Alumni department, is original and breezy.

The *Niagara Index* is deeply injured because some one has been criticizing its advertisements, and enters the list on behalf of the brewers. Its logic is admirable! "Isn't the business legitimate? The government says yes. Why then refuse to advertise a lawful business?" The *Index* evidently hasn't realized that it is possible for even the Canadian government to act otherwise than in accordance with correct ethical standards. And, *Index*, it isn't polite to call a man a hypocrite because he finds fault with yourself. You evidently do not belong to that class, and are quite willing to rank your morals with those of the daily press. Well!

Personals.

Rev. M. B. Shaw, M. A., '90, after a pleasant voyage of nearly two months, arrived safely at Vizianagram, Madras Presidency, where he will labor under the direction of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Board.

A. J. Kempton, B. A., '89; M. C. Higgins, B. A., '89; W. B. Wallace, B. A., '90; H. F. Waring, B. A., '90, are the representatives of Acadia at Rochester Theological Seminary.

Rev. Walter Barss, M. A., '84, after a successful pastorate at Mechanicsville, N. Y., has lately resigned his charge there to take the oversight of a church at Geneva, N. Y.

Rev. W. H. Jenkins, B. A., '89, is now engaged in pastoral work in Brandon, Man., where he labors with the energy which characterized him as a student. Mr. Jenkins is made of the right kind of material for the North West, and will be heard from again.

H. T. Ross, L.L.B., B. A., '85, is building up a successful law practice at Bridgewater, N. S.

C. A. Shaw, after wandering for nearly a year in the vicinity of the Pacific, has returned to his studies. Few students have a more extensive experimental knowledge of either American continent than Carl.

Rev. J. H. Robbins, M. A., '87, lately resigned his charge at Claremont, N. H., and returned to his old home in Yarmouth, N. S. We welcome such men as Mr. Robbins to our provinces.

W. D. Dimock, B. A., '67, is making himself invaluable to Canada by his successful management of exhibition affairs. He has at present charge of the Canadian department of the Jamaica exhibition.

E. W. Kelly, B. A., '76, is expected soon to return from Mandalay, Burma, where he has been doing valiant service under the American Baptist F. M. Board.

Locals.

"Deef."

Butter-crock.

Water-loo.

Retaliation.

"And his last breath was a pun."

Who regulates the clock?

The latest combine—Freshmen against local editors.

Prof.—Where is Galilee?

Theolog.—In the Accusative.

Senior.—Can you give me correct time as near as you can?

Sevon's little primer for Ladies' Seminaries.

Inquiring Soph.—Say, professor, did you ever hear a sound with so many vibrations that you couldn't hear it?

Disappointed Freshman.—I ought to have a pass-mark.

Clossmat.—How is that?

D. Freshman.—Well, I cribbed at least four of those questions straight.

Prof. (to Soph. trying to explain the velocity of sound)—There isn't much velocity in that.

Oh, the charm of that gentle rap to draw the puzzled junior from his mechanical thoughts, even if it does take him ten minutes to collect his scattered wits, and find that it is not he that is wanted, but Mr. H—.

The following clipping may be of interest:

"On the twenty-fifth of February there will be a total eclipse of (f) of the now luminous side-beams of the lunar body, Archibald."—*Astronomer Royal.*

From error's shade a Freshman true,
Has kept his *nomen* so long white,
That when Professor calls it wrong,
He answers not, but much prefers
To have a goose-egg 'fore recite.

Egotistic Freshie.—You Sophomores are a crowd of inconsistent, empty-headed tooters.

Stately Soph.—Yes! we generally tutor the Freshmen.

Witty Soph. (at last reception)—Where are you from?

Sen.—From W—.

W. Soph.—How far is that from Coldbrook?

Sen.—About twenty-five miles.

W. Soph.—How large a city is that?

Sen.—Well, anxious inquirer, I would advise you to take a trip down in holidays and sic.

A Senior who is engaged in solving social problems thought he had arrived at the correct solution when he said, "Educate the lower classes." Perhaps he should have said, "Attend to the needs of the great unwashed."

Others can tell them that they sin,
How to get there and what to do;
I like to prove there is a God,
And give them Dr. Paley's view.

Requested, that would-be *sparkers* coming in late on Saturday night, please bring their chairs.

Why did the hero of former *daring* deeds arrive at church at 7.45 to the second?

Why is a certain Sophomore like an oyster?
One is born by the sea, and the other is by the sea born.

The other day a very small Freshman left his accustomed seat, hoping to escape a recitation; but the professor surprised him with, "Next, Mr. King."

Before Christmas it looked very discouraging for the Academy; but owing to a change of sentiment, the boys came back with a full determination to make a mark in football during the coming season. This has been clearly shown by the energetic efforts of a few of the Senior class during last month. Now driven to desperation by previous defeats, they collect in rooms, *lock* themselves in, and proceed to develop the *art*. Taking advantage of the referee's absence, a safety-touch is secured in the *nick* of time. But appearing on the scene, his inquirers revealed the true *position of the contestants*, and they are compelled to add another defeat to their long list.

Illustrations of proportion taken from real life:
A man is strong in proportion to his strength.
As sugar is to the taste, so is music to the ear.

Apologies vincent.—What a clever student he must be! Even when he has "been unable to put much time on his work," he appears to know his lessons pretty well. Surely the Professors make allowance on such occasions, and mark with due liberality! We admit it is a little hard when other duties take up considerable time, but do not feel quite so sure that the daily marks are increased on that account.

At their first lecture in English this term, the Sophomores had quite a gay time. Mirth and jollity were rife. It appears that the secret of the fun was the play on words that was so freely indulged in. Of course, Sophs. can't be expected to be as dignified as doctors in all they do, but it would be well for them to cultivate genuine humour, for true wit is one of the most desirable gifts a man can possess.

Help them, lift them when you can,
Be you short or tall;
But, Arch, e'en near your brawny arms
A Sem. is apt to fall.

Last term's knights of the hairy face have retired from their position of distinction, and now we have a large number of would-be followers in their footsteps. The contagion has in fact spread. Furthermore, the conditions of membership have been made more liberal. If all are true to their vows, we shall have some odd looking individuals. Some are to leave their heads unshorn for full two months. Others are to be marked by the growth of hair on the face, part restricting the use of the razor somewhat, the rest discarding the instrument altogether. Another class have undertaken something more original. They have boldly decided to encourage home production of foot-wear, and think that, although the strain on socks may be great for a while, they will finally be able to supply themselves with sandals of the most approved pattern.

The Fates have destined him to rove,
Though on his pilgrimage he move,
That luring building by the way
Has often bid his footsteps stray;
And through rain, and sleet, and sighs,
On "cousin's night" he hither flies;
If venture near a Junior bold,
He tastes the luxury of woe;
For at distance placed makes strong devotion,
This spreading, then, doth show its motion,
And gives his soul such tempting scope,
That to his friends he breathes his hope.
Of winning looks and melting smiles,
He'll practise till reception whites.

Two Seniors, it is averred, will, even before their graduation, enter into the *canning* business. It will be a partnership affair, of course. One of these worthy gentlemen, as the name of his partner indicates, has had something to do already in the fruit business, enough to know whether it is likely to be a paying speculation or not. They are both persons of wide experience, who spent the past summer in P. E. I., probably in the oyster trade, and their partners are eminently qualified to take care of the *bills*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

H. N. Paint, \$5.00; W. S. Black, B. A., M. S. Read, C. H. Read, R. E. Gullison, Rev. I. C. Archibald, Prof. Wm. Elder, Mrs. Thomson, Miss Crowell, Miss Reeves, Rev. E. M. Saunders, D. D., J. C. West, Rev. F. C. Hartley, B. A., Archie Murray, Miss Annie McKenzie, Miss Blanche Corning, G. P. Payzant, M. H. McLean, L. J. Slauchenwhite, F. C. Hemeon, O. N. Chipman, E. M. McLeod, Miss Cleumie J. Clarke, G. E. Chipman, W. B. Burnett, H. F. Whiddon, A. V. Pineo, \$1.00 each; F. S. Anderson, H. C. Creed, M. A., E. D. King, M. A., J. E. Price, W. C. Nowcomb, \$2.00 each; H. Bert Ellis, M. D., H. H. Ayer, \$3.00 each; L. J. Ingraham, F. E. Cox, 75c. each; J. L. Miner, 50c.; W. A. Chipman, \$1.25.

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