

# COLLEGE TOPICS

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## LIVELY DEBATE ON A LIVELY TOPIC

The Meeting of Varsity Lit Friday Evening a Most Interesting One

### ANGLO-SAXON ALLIANCE

Mathematicians and Natural Scientists Discuss the Question—The Latter's Views Held to be Right.

The fourth meeting of the Michaelmas Term suffered materially from the exodus of the three football teams and their "rooters" to Kingston. The attendance was in consequence somewhat meagre, and was in marked contrast to the previous meetings. The proceedings, however, did not lose in interest, the debaters giving some fine exhibitions of clever speaking. Mr. J. McGregor Young, B.A., the late president of the society, was present, and beamed upon the faithful from his coign of vantage upon the platform. Mr. Hunt, a former graduate, who still takes great interest in student matters, was also present. At about 8:30 Dr. Wickett, the president, opened the meeting by calling for the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings. Under the head of business, Mr. McKay proposed that the general committee be empowered to recommend debaters for the intercollegiate debates, subject to the approval of the society. Mr. W. A. Groves seconded the motion, which was carried.

For the debate of the Intercollegiate Union with Trinity College, Dec. 2nd, Messrs. W. H. Alexander, '99, and F. W. Anderson, '99, were recommended by the committee. The society endorsed the choice of the committee. Mr. John Patterson, the corresponding secretary, then read a communication from Victoria inviting the society to send a representative to their convocation. Mr. J. F. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. J. McKay, that the representative be appointed forthwith, whereupon Mr. F. W. McKay nominated Mr. D. McDougall, '99, who was elected by acclamation.

Nominations for the leaders in the Mock Parliament being called for, the names of Messrs. Alex. McDougall, W. A. Sadler, and I. H. F. Fisher were submitted to the society. The balloting declared in favor of Messrs. McDougall and Fisher, who are at present engaged with the onerous task of forming a ministry and settling which shall lead the Government and which the Loyal Opposition. This brought the business section to an end.

The literary, and particularly the musical, part of the program was of a very abbreviated nature. M. E., "Doc" Carder, B.A., who was billed for an instrumental solo, was evidently engaged in "very pressing" business elsewhere, for the solo did not realize.

Mr. W. A. Groves, '99, combined business with pleasure by reading from an ancient manuscript an advertisement which sang the praises of the Arlington Chemical Co.

The members then folded the wings of their restless spirits and composed their thoughts for a critical hearing and discrimination of the arguments of the debaters. The subject chosen as an exercise for the rhetorical abilities of these gentlemen was: "Resolved, that an offensive and defensive alliance between Great Britain and the United States is both practicable and desirable." Messrs. D. E. Kilgour ('00) and Mr. R. M. Stewart, '01, representing mathematics, appeared for the affirmative, while Messrs. G. A. Cornish ('00) and E. M. Ashworth ('02), of the department of Natural Science, sustained the negative. Their speeches were characterized in every case by ease, clearness and ability, and the debaters were most successful in holding the close attention of the house.

Mr. Kilgour, who opened the debate, made a very clever speech, in which he followed successfully the division laid down in the subject of discussion. He claimed that such an alliance was desirable from the British, the American, and the Anglo-Saxon point of view, while he made no doubt whatever of its practicability. Mr. Kilgour evidently regards the millennium as a state of affairs in which John Bull & Co. holds the neck of the Slav under his feet.

The leader of the negative, Mr. Geo. A. Cornish, followed with a strong and pointed speech. He questioned the advisability of an Anglo Saxon combination both for the world at large and for the advantage of this favored race. He thought that Great Britain's interests were best served by exercising herself as at present in equal contest with European nations, whereby national energy and spirit were engendered and matured; whereas a state of absolute sovereignty would superinduce the whole train of evils which brought ruin to Rome and Spain. He pointed out that the interests of the two countries in question were such as hardly admitted of such an alliance. The United States, being practically out of the

sphere of European policies, had nothing to fear from foreign invasion and therefore would have no need of British armaments. Mr. R. M. Stewart, '01, the second speaker for the affirmative, made a good speech, for which he received words of praise from Mr. Young, who decided the debate. In reply to a statement of the previous speaker that the Roman Empire had, owing to the sloth fallen a prey to the Goths, she claimed kinship for the British with these hardy northmen, a claim which met with unanimous approval. His argument proper was based on the fact that Great Britain and the United States both stood in need of allies. He therefore considered that nothing could be more suitable than a mutual alliance. He ridiculed the idea of splendid isolation as a *will 'o the wisp*. England could put her coaling stations at the disposal of United States in case of war as well as assist her materially with the resources of the navy, while Americans could return the compliment by defending our Canadian coasts against the attacks of the Russians. Mr. Stewart then drew a mental picture of the soldiers of Johnny Bull and Uncle Sam marching shoulder to shoulder and dying for their common cause, quoting incidentally Horace's saying: "*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*."

Mr. E. M. Ashworth, '01, for the negative, spoke very humorously. He branded the last speaker's glowing peroration as a visionary and hopelessly impossible ideal. How could either Britons or Americans have a country under such conditions? He therefore bewailed the future as one in which there would be no opportunity for any one to die for "one's country." Such a state of affairs was deplorable. Mr. Ashworth then proceeded to score the citizens of the United States in a manner which showed that he was at least patriotic. The population was made up of the off-scourings of the world—Slavs, Poles, Italians and Irish. The Government was a pool of corruption, while the immaculate condition of the British Government was notorious. Speaking of the fighting qualities of the two nations, he believed that the British were the best fighters on earth. At the close of the debate Dr. Wickett announced that Mr. Young had consented to decide the debate, a statement which was greeted with loud cheers.

Mr. Young, who now addressed the Society, signified his pleasure at being again present at the "Lit." He had observed during the course of the evening, the usual aversion of the mento to the front seats, the practising of passing the gown from hand to hand, and the same old hickory table. He spoke of the superior advantages of the impromptu debates in the despatch of business, and strongly urged upon the society the necessity of keeping the constitution in such repair that there could be no conceivable point for dispute in any of its articles. He thought that this was a duty the Society owed its president, as he had himself experienced during the exciting elections of last spring. In making the award of the debate, Mr. Young stated that in his opinion the affirmative had failed to prove their case, and that in consequence the victory belonged to the negative.

### THE GRACE HALL CLUB

Proposed Formation of a Lending Library for Varsity Lady Students.

Mrs. Hall, of Woodstock, has lately sent to Prof. Baker the text books used by her daughter Grace during her brief College career. Mrs. Hall very kindly desires that these books be placed at the disposal of any of the Varsity girls. Beginning with this donation, it has been proposed that a free lending library be established under the name of "The Grace Hall Club"—to consist of three officers: the president, the secretary-treasurer and the curator. This idea, if carried out, would effectually perpetuate the memory of Miss Hall, whose presence at Varsity is so constantly missed. Moreover, it has been ascertained that many of the undergraduates, upon leaving College, would willingly donate some of their books to this society—thus helping, in a small way, those girls who cannot afford to buy the text books they need. The curator would be required to keep an accurate list of the books received and then, upon private application, any student might have the use of any book on the list, provided she promised to return it in good condition at the end of the year. As will probably be observed, this society would be along the same lines as the very successful Emmanuel Club of Cambridge University, which not only lends books but manages—out of the proceeds of a play gotten up each spring—to pay, each year, the tuition fees of some one student, chosen quite privately by the committee appointed for that purpose. However, it would be some years, at least, before the new club could hope to attempt anything so extensive. The establishment of the lending library is, however, within the bounds of possibility, and it is expected that the lady students of Toronto University will do their utmost to further "The Grace Hall Club."

Coke, the fashionable west end barber, is still at the old stand, 464 Spadina Ave. If

## FAMOUS BOB OF VICTORIA

Freshmen Introduced to the Genial Robert in an Elaborate Manner

### AN UNIQUE INSTITUTION

Halls of Old Vic Resound with Merriment and Jest at the Annual "Bob" Friday Evening.

A purely Victorian institution is the "Bob" of Victoria College, a function dating back almost to the sixties. For twenty-six years this annual *fete* has drawn together the student body, graduates and undergraduates, as no other species of college entertainment has yet been able to do, and it certainly could not be replaced by any other feature. Old students from all parts of the province gather together on this festive night, and looking back through the softening and beautifying mist of years, see themselves again as students and freshmen. They recall the days when they spent many a sleepless night previous to the "Bob," and filled the good house-wife with apprehension at the change in their otherwise healthy appetites, when they laughed nervously at mention of the coming event, and when they awoke at night in a cold sweat accompanied by that creepy sensation and feeling of vague horror, caused by an intangible something known as the "Bob."

To the unsophisticated freshman the approach of his initiation is viewed with more solicitous regard than is the redoubtable "goat" by the secret society candidate. Whispers of the "Bob" ere now have reached him in his rural glade, which, coupled with the reminiscences of seniors, leave no doubt in his mind as to its weight. The assurance that his every act is watched by the "vigilance committee" makes him strive to live a guiltless and blameless life. Often, however, his excessive animal spirits lead him to some hasty action, and alas! he is "spotted" as a suspect by the fatal committee. It is well known that a freshman is gifted by nature with a vivid imagination, and it is therefore not at all unnatural that the impressions he has received of the "Bob" should act as a stimulus to that faculty, and that his excitement should rise to fever heat. When the eventful night at last arrives, it is asserted by authorities on the subject, men who have made a study of the psychology of the freshman mind, that he feels a strange exultation, somewhat akin to that of the hare, which, being overtaken by the hounds, feels more comfortable than during the long chase. We can by no means vouch for the truthfulness of this latter bit of natural history, but we have seen the freshman at this stage assume an air of reckless abandon, blowing lustily on dinner-horns and mouth-pieces from clarionets and performing on many instruments, strangled and otherwise. No doubt the noise sustains his spirits and screws his courage to the sticking point.

The object of the "Bobbers" is to point out to the freshman his pet foibles, throw a search-light on his idiosyncrasies, lop off the rough and jagged points of his character and exercise generally a softening and moulding influence while he is yet young and amenable to treatment. His actions on the campus, in the class-room, corridor, or on the street, are portrayed with striking vividness by the kindly "Bobbers" who have spared no pains to make him relish it, whether they picture a "plug" smiting the air with characteristic gesture and "brothering" the professor, or a freshman over-familiar with his seniors, who slaps the Chancellor on the back and requests that his fees be taken out in turnips. The philanthropic committee points out how these tendencies may be curbed, and even suggest remedies which, if applied in time, will serve as a reagent. Too much cannot be said in favor of these philanthropic men who devote themselves so heartily to the work of training their erring brethren.

The primary object of the "Bob," it might be said, was to present the genial janitor, Mr. Robert Bear, with a tangible mark of the students' regard. The plan was adopted twenty-six years ago in Cobourg and has been in use ever since. Robert has been for nearly half a century the warden of the castle, and the guardian of the freshmen, more than once shielding them from the extreme rigor of the law. A more affable and sweet-tempered janitor would be hard to find.

Last Friday night was "Bob" night at Victoria; and it certainly lacked none of its old time humor. The hall was decorated with cartoons drawn by the famous college cartoonist, Percy Johnston. At the east entrance stood a street piano with its smiling artist, who greeted the approaching band of freshmen with the touching strains of "The Banks of the Wabash." The freshmen, attired in grotesque red costumes and led by the invincible Van Wyck, who bravely carried the Union Jack and Stars and Stripes, filed

into the hall and took the seats assigned to them on the left. Policemen with false whiskers, padded paunches and regulation uniforms paraded the aisles, endeavoring to quiet the exuberant freshmen, who ever and anon raised their voices and sang lustily of the merits of their own particular year.

Mr. W. A. Kerr, B.A., of Cobourg, was the chairman and prior to the opening of the proceedings read "telegrams" of regret at unavoidable absence from the Emperor of China, Prince of Wales, Captain Dreyfus, Major Marchand, Oom Paul Kruger and others. Mr. Kerr said that he had at first mistaken them (the freshmen) for "scarlet runners" but soon afterward he saw that they were some of the "thin red line." This kind of humor the freshmen enjoyed immensely. "Ear, Ear!!" The chairman said he had the honor of being the first freshman ever "bobbed." He referred to Robert as an "astute politician."

The numbers of the program which were all original, were highly humorous. "The Menagerie Catalogued" which was the registration of the first year, was one of these. The effusive warmth of the freshman's greeting and air of familiarity with the Chancellor brought out peals of laughter. One asks the Chancellor in all confidence whether he thinks an art course would benefit him in theology, and another wants to know whether it would be advisable to go to medical school at once or take an arts course at Victoria first.

In the "Seats of the Mighty" the foibles of the faculty were touched on in a spirit of pleasant high enjoyment.

"Fifty Flats in Harmony," which was the annual "Bob" song on the "freshies," was also much appreciated. It was sung to the air of "The Wabash," and chorus ran as follows:

"We have been to the menagerie inspection, We have seen the freaks of nature at the show, But the strangest zoological collection Is that class of the freshman down below."

In a "Score of Naturals," the annual song on the specialists was introduced and sung to the air of "I Love You in the same Old Way," the chorus running as follows:

"T was as children that we lately knew them Tied to mother's apron lest they stray, Let them view themselves as others view them, As they take their 'bobbing' in the same old way."

The freshmen gave their new yell, which both surprised and delighted the audience.

Among other selections was that of Bob's orchestra, designated by the title of "A Symphony in Q minor Bearanczowski." "Cross Questions and Crooked Answers," depicted the annual "District Meeting," and "The Pumpkin Colored Coons," composed the minstrel show. During the intermission college songs were sung with real undergraduate gusto.

Robert was at length presented with a "barrel of money," his annual donation, and replied in his versatile way with a clever oration. He called to mind the old days in Cobourg, when of all the committee Mr. Kerr could drink the most cider. Mr. J. R. L. Starr, he said, came next. He distinctly remembered the time when some freshmen descended to the old cellars under the college because they had heard that cider was to be found there. It was three days after, that led by faint and distant cries, he found them wandering hopelessly in its cavernous depths.

After Robert's speech came "Chops," and after singing "On the Old Ontario Strand," the students and friends of the college departed, the freshman declaring that the "bobbers" were all right, and that

"A little nonsense now and then Is relished by the wisest men."

Every one asserts that it was the best "Bob" ever held, and Mr. Porter and the committee deserve the thanks of the students. The committee was composed of Messrs. W. A. Millyard, W. L. Amy, A. D. Robb, W. H. Hamilton, H. J. Wren, J. H. Beer, E. A. McCulloch, G. E. Porter, chairman; C. B. Sissons, sec.-treas.

### TORONTO MEDS

Several meetings of the dinner committee were held last week, and the result of the deliberations tells us that we are to hold our annual dinner in the University gymnasium on the evening of December 8th. Certainly the choice of place is an excellent one, and for the first time in the history of our College, this great affair is to take place in our own home, if I may be pardoned the expression. Webb will cater, and the committee, to a man, says he will outshine all previous efforts and surround himself and the 12th annual dinner with glory. The menu cards are to be striking in their originality, richness and simplicity, but for any hint as to what they will be like, the committee won't whisper a word. They just tell us to "observe" them when they appear. Dr. Bertram Spencer was unanimously elected hon. president at the meeting Friday afternoon last. Mr. H. F. Brethour was elected to the position of secretary, and W. G. Ratcliffe to that of treasurer.

Dr. J. E. Charlesworth, '98, was at the school for a while last Friday, and was kept busy shaking hands with old acquaintances.

## OPEN MEETING OF VARSITY LIT

Will be Held Friday Evening in Students' Union—Excellent Program Provided

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr. Wickett will Speak on Bismarck—Names of Those Who are Booked for that Evening.

The first open meeting of the University College Literary and Scientific Society will be held next Friday evening, Nov. 18th, in the University Gymnasium. The executive has done its utmost to secure a first-class program, which efforts have been attended with most satisfactory results. It is earnestly hoped that every undergraduate will do his *devoir* to his lady fair on that evening by squiring her to this interesting function. It is scarcely needful to call attention to the imperative nature of this pleasant duty and its material bearing upon the fun of the evening.

We must impress upon the benighted freshman class, which is still in a state of outgrowth from the chrysalis period, that the Varsity undergrad is essentially a cavalier, whose sunny ways are calculated to thaw the distant coldness of Toronto's most imperious beauties. Let those men, however, whose charms are as yet an unclaimed blessing, muster in force on that night and come prepared to exercise their wit. There is little doubt but that, both from the student standpoint and from that of the audience, one of the most delightful features of the open debate is found in the cross-firings and sallies of wit which are banded about in the course of the evening. In this connection, however, the words of the preacher are peculiarly *apropos*: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Too often is it the case that a knot of light headed youths, "intoxicated by the exuberance, etc." inflict untold misery upon those present by the persistency, as well as the pointlessness, of their wit. *Verbum sap.*

Among the numbers of the program is included the inaugural address of the President, S. Morley Wickett, Ph. D. Dr. Wickett has chosen a subject that will appeal to the interest of everyone: "Bismarck considered from the point of view of the national sentiment." The choice of the subject of the debate also, is very commendable, in dealing as it does, with a matter of present interest. The proposition is: "Resolved, that Lord Salisbury's foreign policy during the present administration has, on the whole, been censurable." For the affirmative the speakers are Messrs. R. J. McAlpine, '99 and A. N. Mitchell, '00. Messrs. W. F. MacKay, '99 and G. F. Kay, '00 will do battle for the negative. Mr. A. H. R. Fairchild, '00, of the department of English and History, is the essayist. Mr. A. L. Burch, '99, who was appointed Reader, will give a selection from Longfellow's *Hiawatha*.

The two chief items of the musical part of the program will be a selection rendered by the Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club, and a violin solo by Mr. W. Beardmore. These two numbers will be in great favor. The Banjo Club has ever been a popular contributor to the open debate, while those who have experienced the pleasure of hearing Mr. Beardmore, will undoubtedly make a point of being present next Friday evening.

The program committee is composed as follows: Messrs. D. McDougall, '99, R. V. Le Sueur, '99, and F. E. Brown, '00. Messrs. A. J. Dickson, R. H. Patterson, H. D. Graham, W. Elmslie, M. A. Buchanan, R. J. Hamilton and G. Yeates will act as censors in the Hall.

Dr. Scott is proving a very popular lecturer in the Physics Department at Varsity. He is the Exhibition Scholarship man of '96, and has spent the last two years in Germany.

### CONVERSAT THIS YEAR

Literary Executive Decides to Hold this Function on a New Basis—Social Reception Rather Than a Ball.

At a meeting of the executive of the Literary Society, held on Monday afternoon, the chief business related to the consideration of this year's conversat. It was decided that this leading event of student social life should be conducted on an entirely new basis. As a dance it will be a minor event, the intention being to make it what its name signifies—a brilliant social reception. A first class concert program will be provided and arrangements will be made for dancing in some section of the college building. The athletic dance, on the other hand, will be recognized as the dance of the year, and a ball will take the place of the *conversat*.