

position of the University, and its present needs, and know their duty in working for its interests. They recognize that if the widespread interest which the main question of University Endowment has aroused on all hands, is to be productive of good and substantial results, action must be taken at once.

The proposal for a grand gathering of University men on some such plan as that advocated in the memorial from the undergraduates, seems to meet with unqualified approval. Mr. Blake, on Thursday evening, attributed the lack of sympathy and co-operation hitherto shown by our graduates in University matters, to a want of reunion and intercourse which most other Universities do not allow to exist. It is proposed to devote a day in January to University matters, with a meeting of the Executive Committee of Convocation at 12 o'clock, noon, a meeting of Convocation at 3 o'clock p.m., and a banquet in the evening.

With such a meeting as that held on Thursday; with the reports received every day from graduates in all parts of the Province; with the determined and almost unanimous stand the Press has taken during the past month; and with the numerous and important schemes already undertaken with every promise of support and success; it is safe to say that, whatever may be the immediate results, the University of Toronto has arrived at a period when its future can be looked forward to with the feeling, that there will never be lacking the sympathy and activity of those who are and ought to be its friends.

Editorial Notes.

As so much space is this week devoted to Convocation, and the recent important meeting of its Executive Committee, we print without comment the reports from the Graduates Associations of the counties of Elgin and Ontario, and the city of Ottawa. These reports breathe the same spirit of enthusiasm for our Alma Mater, and determination to press her claims till the desired objects are gained, which the other county Associations over the Province are exhibiting.

The arguments of those whose bread-and-butter interests induce them to oppose any increase to the present University endowment are, to put it mildly, somewhat ingenuous. When divested of their rhetorical varnish they simply amount to the assertion that the University erected and supported by the State for the benefit of all classes in the State, should not be better equipped than private benefactors may choose to gratuitously equip those Colleges and Universities with which they may happen to sympathize. Such a proposition as this, that the boundaries of educational advancement in this province are to be fixed by the sympathetic gratuities of private benefactors, surely needs only to be started to have its absurdity exposed. The only arguable questions, and the only ones which should have any weight amongst a people who have adopted the system of national education can then be but two. Is the Provincial University sufficiently equipped, and if not, has the Provincial University a sufficient endowment to equip it sufficiently? We think that an answer to both of these questions will be found in the official report, printed in the 'VARSITY' some months ago, and which represents the present state of University affairs. This report undoubtedly shows that our Provincial University, far from being sufficiently equipped, is absolutely in need of increased accommodation, increased lectureships, and increased appliances in almost every department, and that, far from being sufficiently endowed to supply this necessary equipment, the present funds are barely sufficient to keep the old wheels oiled, let alone to get new ones.

We publish a communication from the Rev. F. W. Kerr, M.A., Vice-Provost of the Western University, concerning our editorial of last week on that institution. We are always ready to give space in our columns to the fair discussion of both sides of a question, and therefore willingly publish Mr. Kerr's letter. We cannot, however, see that he has made any point that affects materially anything we have said. We do not admit that, 'Whatever concerns the gains or losses of the Bishop' 'is of no

interest to the public in regard to the usefulness of the Western University.' If the University was called into existence to help the Bishop to unload his property, the public has a right to know it, in order to judge of the *raison d'être* of the Institution. We had already in a previous article shown that from its very nature the University could not further the educational interests of Western Ontario, and that there was no cause for its existence on that score. The Bishop, as Chancellor of the University, and as chief stockholder of the Hellmuth Boys' College, was practically master of the situation, so that the 'reasonable transaction' was controlled by him on both sides. Notwithstanding Mr. Kerr's explanation, we still think that it was folly at this early stage to purchase such an expensive building as the Hellmuth Boys' College, when the University already possessed a large building. A few thousands of dollars would have made Huron College quite adequate for the purposes of the Western University for some years. It was hardly wise to load the University with a heavy debt for the purchase of new buildings without adding one cent to the endowment. We repeat our statement that the University owed its existence, in the first place, to the energy of the late Bishop. He may have inspired the alumni of Huron College with a portion of his energy, but we do not think he did so to any very great extent. We must in all honesty say that we believe Mr. Kerr is mistaken in believing that the scheme is being successfully carried out. The only part of it that seems to be making any progress is the medical department, and we should not have the slightest objection to seeing a medical school grow up in London in affiliation with the University of Toronto. Possibly we may not be able, as Mr. Kerr says, to judge of the University so well from a distance as if we were nearer. The view from a distance is bad enough, and the more closely we inspect it the less cause do we see for its existence as a University.

It has been frequently said that Toronto University maintains the highest literary standard on this continent. It has also been said that the undergraduates of the same University are, as a class, the most unsociable set to be found in any Canadian College. On the first statement the undergraduates reflect with great mental satisfaction; we hope it is true, and always will be. The second we may deny, but still have a very uncomfortable suspicion that in common with the former it possesses the important element of truthfulness. The most hopeful sign is that the undergraduates themselves seem to be waking up to the fact. We trust the awakening will not be in vain. Generally speaking a University education gives a man a great start in life. It certainly should. But if a University-bred man is thus to be rendered more unapproachable to his fellow-citizens, if he is to relapse into a literary fossil, or become an educated jackdaw, it had been better if he turned to an honest trade the first day he saw a quadratic equation. The literary training we receive at College must always be the main, the great prize to be sought for, but it need not be the only one, nor need it render us forgetful of those who travel with us on the old, well-worn *via philosophica*. But reflecting on the past, or speculating on what 'might have been,' has ever been futile. Our duty is to seek the remedy, and 'when found make a note of it,' always remembering to try it ourselves before recommending it to our neighbors. In the first place, make friends with those who seem to have none. If you have no rough angles and corners of your own to wear down, try to make those of some one else less prominent. You will never regret shewing that you too have a large share of 'the milk of human kindness.' It may seem a startling fact, but it is nevertheless true, that the contested elections in the Literary Society last spring did more to make the undergraduates acquainted with one another than all the meetings of the Society itself during the preceding year. We are glad to see that one of our recent editorials has already drawn attention to the state of the Society. We believe the undergraduates will not rest satisfied with a mere enquiry. We believe, too, the College Literary Society is not going to rest satisfied with a Reading Room that would