

## THE VARSITY.

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All communications should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto, and must be in on Wednesday of each week.

No notice will be taken of anonymous contributions.

## THE NEW PROFESSORSHIP.

Our critic returns to the charge once more, and we shall be brief in reply lest our readers should weary of the discussion. The question in dispute between us now narrows itself down to a difference of opinion, and, as such, becomes more and more a matter of individual, and less and less of general interest. Our correspondent enters his protests seriatim against THE VARSITY'S position on this question, the only points of agreement being that the work thrown upon the new Chair is too much for one teacher to carry on, and a mutual hope that the Minister of Education may make a wise choice of a Professor. We are glad to see that our correspondent thus agrees with THE VARSITY that the requirements of the new Professorship are exceptionally exacting. This is valuable corroborative testimony to the truth of our contention that the man who aspires to the position must be a ripe scholar, a master of his subject, a specialist, and the possessor of a varied and most comprehensive knowledge of all branches of Political Science, especially Political Economy. But this only narrows down the list of Canadian applicants for the position, and renders it more than probable that the successful applicant will be an outsider. This may or may not be a humiliating admission. It depends altogether upon the point of view from which the statement is regarded. To the ultra-Canada-First party the statement appears unpatriotic and humiliating; but to those who place the cause of education and the interests of the University above all other considerations, the requirement that Canadians must be prepared to meet foreign competition on equal grounds, and that the best man should win, far from being unpatriotic and humiliating, is stimulating and encouraging; and, if the arbiter of the contest is above suspicion, the result cannot but be, in all human probability, eminently just and satisfactory. We should not be content, in any department of life, with inferior Canadians, if we can command the services of outsiders better equipped for the same work.

We do not underrate or disparage Canadian capability and cleverness by admitting that we have no Canadians already qualified by study and research to take the responsible position of Professor of Political Science in the Provincial University. The reason why we have not duly qualified men is simply that opportunities have not been afforded, nor have facilities been supplied, for the systematic and scientific training of men in this department of learning hitherto in Canada. The creation of the present Chair is the first step—at least, of any consequence—in this Province toward providing for the effective teaching of the principles of Political Science. The necessity, therefore, of securing a Professor who is something more than an industrious amateur is all the greater in view of this fact.

It is, therefore, no disgrace to Canada, nor is it humiliating, if, under these circumstances, the first Professor of Political Science in the University of Toronto should be an outsider or a foreigner, if we should call an Englishman or an American by that name.

We are glad to see, also, that our critic is as willing as we are to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Minister of Education. But, at the same time, it is somewhat surprising—considering the source—that our critic should lecture THE VARSITY on good taste. There is an excellent old saw about people in glass houses, which we commend to our correspondent's notice,

## THE GLEE CLUB.

The Honorary President of the Glee Club makes some very excellent suggestions which that Club's incoming committee of management should consider carefully. These suggestions are briefly the following:—1. The Glee Club, as a whole, should confine itself to the rendering of distinctively College Choruses, while a quartette or octette should be carefully selected and trained to represent the Club in the singing of part songs or concert music of a higher class. 2. A musical library should be established and maintained in connection with the Club. 3. The Club should give an annual Concert, in addition to appearing at the *Conversazione* and at public debates. 4. Some facilities should be provided by the authorities for the acquiring by students of a thorough knowledge of vocal music and voice culture.

The first suggestion, as to the proper sphere of the Glee Club, is one which will commend itself to all who have had any experience with a choir composed for the most part, of untrained voices. The quartette or octette selected to render the higher class of music could easily be drilled by the leader, and the finishing touches might be left to the professional conductor of the Club to impart when the singers were, as they say on the stage, "word-perfect."

The second improvement suggested, that of establishing a library, is an excellent one. The Club should possess a permanent and accessible repertory of the music used by it each year. This would reduce the expenses of membership and management, and would retain all the "old favourites" without additional cost to the new and ever-changing membership of the Club. Mr. Mercer justly complains that it is practically impossible now for the Club to produce choruses from *Antigone*, *Edipus*, or *Frithjof*, without compelling every member to supply himself with an entire copy of each of these works.

Mr. Mercer's plea for the institution of an annual students' concert by the Glee Club is one that will, we hope, be favourably entertained by next year's committee of management. The Glee Club and its friends—among its graduate and undergraduate members alone—have enough talent to give a thoroughly enjoyable and characteristic concert, for which there would be any amount of patronage and support. We should greatly like to see such a concert become an annual fixture in the musical calendar of Toronto.

The reference in Mr. Mercer's letter which we have placed last in our enumeration of the points he discusses, is a very important one, but one which, we confess, suggests many difficulties. However, some favourable arrangement might be made with the Toronto Conservatory of Music whereby students of the University and members of the Glee Club might receive general instruction in vocal music and voice culture, in some such way, *mutatis mutandis*, as the students of the Conservatory now enjoy instruction in Acoustics at University College.

Perhaps, if THE VARSITY'S suggestion regarding Degrees in Music were carried out, members of the Glee Club might enjoy in some measure reciprocal benefits for those which members of the Conservatory now receive at University College. At all events we hope all members of the Glee Club, and especially the incoming committee of management, will carefully consider the different points raised by Mr. Mercer, and that we may see some practical improvements, on the lines that he suggests, next year.

## CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION.

The following is the record of the changes in the constitution:—  
(1). Mr. W. Prendergast moved, seconded by Mr. T. C. DesBarres: That Art. VI. sec. 3, which provides for prizes being given for public reading and speaking, be rescinded.

This was carried by a vote of 20 to 3.

(2). Mr. F. J. Steen moved, seconded by Mr. H. J. Cody: That the annual meeting begin at 4 p.m., instead of 7.30 p.m., as heretofore.

This was lost, the vote being 40 for and 40 against.

(3). Mr. A. T. Hunter moved, seconded by Mr. C. S. Coatsworth: That three councillors be elected from the first year on the General Committee instead of 1 as formerly.

This was lost, the vote being 9 for and 25 against.

(4). Mr. W. Hull moved, seconded by Mr. C. S. Coatsworth: