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Editorial Topics.

THE NEW DEAN.

THE REV. PROFESSOR JONES having resigned the Deanship of Trinity College, the Rev. Professor Rigby has been appointed to the office, and will enter upon his new duties on January 1st. We must congratulate the Corporation on the wisdom they have displayed in their choice of a successor to our beloved Dean of old. If anything could compensate us for the change it is the appointment of Professor Rigby, who, though he has been with us for so short a time, has become exceedingly popular with the men, and is firmly established as a general favourite. His genial manners and ready sympathy, his evident desire to appreciate and understand, rather than to criticise and find fault, have won for him the respect and regard of all at Trinity. It was once remarked by an English traveller of some repute that if Englishmen would give up the notion—a not altogether accurate one—that they could instruct the humble colonist in everything, from milking his cow to governing his colony, they would receive a more kindly greeting in Greater Britain. We have known two or three Englishmen who have not entertained this notion, and Professor Rigby is one of them. We bespeak for the new Dean the hearty support and loyalty of all the students.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

It is to be regretted that a more active interest is not taken in the weekly meetings of the University Literary Society. Large is the number of men who have expressed their regret that they did not attend these meetings more regularly during their undergraduate days, and avail themselves to the full of the privileges open to all the members. The training in public speaking which it is the chief aim of the Society to give is of immense importance—a training which none can afford to lose. How necessary it is now-a-days to be a ready speaker is abundantly evident. It would be useless to attempt enumerating the many different circumstances in which many of our young men at the present day are placed. Wherein they may sometimes be called upon to speak publicly before others. *Poeta nascitur, non fit*, says one of our classic writers, and in a certain sense it may be said of orators also. But it cannot be true, in numberless other instances, where men have risen by their own endeavours, and by cultivating those talents which are common to most men. It requires distinctness of utterance—it is necessary that the man have the use of his ears, and put them to good account—and it requires reading and study to be an acceptable speaker. Having the former, and time to carry out the latter, it depends chiefly on the man himself. The great difference between men, the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is energy—invincible determination—a purpose once fixed, and then “death or victory.” We hope that the remark made by Professor Rigby on the evening when he was kind enough to attend one of the meetings of the Society, that any one can learn to speak provided he work hard enough—will be laid to heart by all and that his encouraging words will not be without effect.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

It is gratifying to note the widespread interest which is being taken in the forthcoming mayoralty election in this city and the determination of the better class of citizens to take their proper part in deciding who shall be the chief magistrate for the year 1892. In our political system cities have become the strongholds of misrule and corruption. The government of a city concerns itself more intimately with the lives of the inhabitants than any other, so that there is a proportionately greater possibility of corruption and maladministration. This being the case, the citizens should make so much the more effort to procure wise and just administrators. But it is here where the trouble begins. No special effort is made except by the citizen who is personally affected. This is the acme of selfishness. However, the municipal affairs of Toronto are now in such a sorry plight that all the citizens are more or less personally affected. Hence the present outburst of public spirit and the participation in the fray of those who have hitherto stood aloof with lofty disdain.

A NEW ROLE.

At the great ratification meeting in support of the candidature of Mr. E. B. Osler for Mayor, held in the Auditorium on Friday evening, December 18th, the Rev. Professor Clarke made one of the best and most effective speeches of the evening. He had been requested to second the resolution by Mr. Goldwin Smith, and explained to his audience that he did so because he thought it most unsuitable that one who could not be numbered among the men of wealth who were said to be the supporters of Mr. Osler, should give his reflections on the important question of the election of a Mayor. The previous speaker had referred to the burdens which we were bearing; but it seems to be forgotten, said Professor Clark, that those burdens were self imposed; and moreover that the past government of the city, good or bad, was carried on by men whom we had elected. But this only showed the importance of electing the best men that could be got; and by the confession and testimony of the men best qualified to judge. Mr. Osler was a man eminently fitted by administrative and financial ability, and by undoubted integrity to govern the city with credit to himself and with advantage to the citizens. It had been said that Mr. Osler had so many other posts of importance that he ought not to be raised to this one. A very strange argument. A man has shown his special fitness and ability, and in consequence has been honoured and trusted by his fellow-citizens; and therefore he must not be made mayor. That was a strange kind of argument. Wise people choose wise rulers, and foolish people foolish. Our choice will show whether we are wise or foolish. It was generally recognized that Mr. Osler would make great sacrifices by becoming mayor. Now, he did not deny that a man who occupied any office had a right to remuneration. Still they must feel that, by practically renouncing this claim, Mr. Osler made a strong appeal for their support. Here then was a man of first-rate ability willing to serve them. If they knew of a better man, they would vote for him. If they knew of no better man than Mr. Osler, it would be an act of treason to the city to refuse to vote for him. Let them unite and return him triumphantly for the good of this great city, and of the fair Province of Ontario, and so of the whole Dominion of Canada.