

alone many thousands of dollars, and has never lost a cent through trusting them. Hence, when Mr. Pense refuses to hand over our property and implies that we are not to be trusted, he wantonly insults every student of the University.

As for his flings at the students and the University through the columns of his paper, he is doing more good than harm. His sarcastic references merely unite the students against such injustice, and thus tend to promote the solidarity of the students of all faculties. Not only is he harmless, he is even amusing. There is among the geysers of Iceland a little one called the Strokhr, or churn, that has a peculiar physical defect of which tourists frequently take advantage. Whenever clods are thrown into it there is a violent retching, followed by an ebullition, in which a mass of half-digested mud is thrown skyward. If the bystander happens to be to the windward some small portion of this spatters upon him, but the bulk of it is received back and swallowed up by the unhappy geyser, which continues in an internal state of commotion for some time. At present we seem to have got to the windward of Kingston's little geyser.

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The *Conversat.* has gone on record as the most successful in many years, if not in the whole history of the institution. Several features contributed to this end, and it would be well to have these kept in mind when the next session rolls round. Foremost among these we are inclined to place the date. Heretofore it has been crowded into the first term, just before the Christmas vacation, when many students were short of funds, and the members of the faculties were preparing for the increased expenditure demanded by the advent of Santa Claus. Again, the medical dinner is fixed for that week, and there is a tendency also for students to cut classes and go home because they think the *Conversat.* will disorganize things somewhat, and they have therefore less compunction in extending the vacation a few days. All these things militate against the success of the *Conversat.* But heretofore the contention has been that it would cause too much of a break in the work of the second term. The result has proved that this fear is groundless. Apart from the time lost by a few members of important committees, there was no visible disturbance of class work until the very day of the function, and on Monday morning work was resumed with all the more vigor and earnestness.

On the financial side there was a like result. The receipts were slightly larger than last session, and the report of the general committee will, we are told, show a deficit of only a few dollars. Among the steps taken to increase the comfort of our guests that of serving refreshments in the museum was most timely, as it drew the crowd away from the narrow stairway leading to the third flat and distributed the people in such a way that much less crowding was experienced. The committees are all deserving of the thanks of the A.M.S., for they did their work well, and programme, decorations and

refreshments were all of such merit as to receive only the most favorable criticisms. On the whole, we believe the date of the *Conversat.* should be permanently transferred to the third week in January, and that the committees should be appointed not later than the first week in December. We would respectfully suggest to the Senate, however, that nothing is gained by continuing classes through the afternoon of the day on which the *Conversat.* is held. A plan which would meet with much favor from the students is to suspend classes altogether on that date and make up for it by dropping Ash Wednesday from the list of regular holidays.

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A good deal is being said and written just now regarding more adequate protection from loss by fire in the city. We have long wondered at the lethargy of our college authorities in this matter, and hope that the present agitation may make them take prompt measures to do all they can to insure the safety of our buildings. There is one solitary hydrant on the college grounds, which has not been tested for months unless it were during the vacation. There is no standpipe within the main building, no hose and not even a small hand extinguisher. Moreover it is a decided risk to hold classes in the third storey under existing conditions. There are no fire escapes on the outside of the building and the only means of exit is by a narrow, winding stairway directly over the Registrar's office. If once a little blaze started among the stationery and records there stored, this avenue would almost immediately be cut off. At the other end is the library the value of which cannot be estimated in dollars and cents, yet were fire to break out in that vicinity there are at present no adequate means of coping with it, and by the time the city Brigade got to work we should probably require not only a new building for the library, but a new library itself. Many improvements are urgent at present, but in our opinion this question takes precedence over all others.

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As the *JOURNAL* is interested in every question which affects the welfare of Canada, we would like to refer briefly to the question of immigration, now so prominent. Undoubtedly we have a vigorous Minister of the Interior. Far-off Russia has been invaded and some of her "best citizens," in the shape of the Doukhobors, have been induced to emigrate to Canada. The *Globe* and other Government papers have been busy issuing certificates of character in favor of the people. The opposition press has endeavored to discredit them, but the cry is too obviously one of "sour grapes."

The fact is that Mr. Sifton has accomplished what his predecessors promised but never carried out, and just to that extent he has done more harm than they. We may well ask, Why this unseemly haste to use up the natural resources of Canada? They form a permanent asset which we would do well to reserve for our sons and daughters, and which they will, no doubt, be glad to claim. Why should we be eager to hand them over to strangers whom we have actually had to coax to accept