

of which much profitable exercise might be derived.

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WHAT shall be the character of the "At Home" this year? The fact that this question recurs year after year is sufficient proof that there is something radically wrong in the lines along which our annual social function is conducted. Otherwise some satisfactory basis for committees in charge to work on would have been reached in previous years. This time, however, the committee is confronted by the same difficulty as met and baffled their predecessors, and as a result the great social event of the year threatens to become a failure as far as the Normal College students are concerned. Reports are circulated as to the splendor and style that attend this event, in which all the *elite* of Hamilton participate, and many have already declared themselves unwilling to attend a brilliant affair entailing such expense and where dancing is the main feature of the evening's diversion. "If that is what the committee make it," they say, "they are at liberty to go forward with their plans, but I will have nothing to do with it."

But that is surely not the proper attitude to assume. This committee, or at least our half of it, has been appointed by the Literary Society and is in duty bound to carry out its wishes as far as possible. It is plain, however, that it cannot do so unless those wishes be definitely made known and it be strongly supported by the body of students whom it represents. This can be done only by free discussion in the Society and elsewhere, until the general feeling on the matter is

made apparent and the members of the committee realize that they have the loyal support of the students behind them instead of cold indifference.

With the present system of management of the event of course the Collegiate Institute students have equal voice with those of the Normal College in all the arrangements. We presume that this union of forces originated in a desire for economy and greater efficiency. One grand event required less effort and expense and would pass off with more *clat* than two smaller.

However that may be, we cannot but feel that the union was a misjudged one. The two elements can never have a common aim in arranging for and conducting the "At Home". The Collegiate students, coming many of them from the wealthy society circles of the city, wish a function which their friends may attend, as one of the greatest events of the season, and they are quite justified in wishing it so. The College students, mainly strangers in the city and in most cases not seeking an entrance to the ranks of society, wish to find an opportunity of repaying the kindness and hospitality they have received from the friends they have made during their stay here. How can these two be harmonized? It is impossible, and as long as this union of forces is maintained and a compromise attempted there will be dissatisfaction on both sides.

This, however, is apart from the real question at issue. It has been decided that this year the customary arrangement will prevail and we must now make the best of it. We will reap the benefit, it is true, of greater financial returns than we could otherwise hope