

Friday evening an open meeting may be held at the discretion of the General Committee," so that, as far as the Constitution is concerned, there is no difficulty. Secondly, the spirit of the General Committee has been decidedly in favor of open meetings whenever possible. Thirdly, the proportion of open meetings this year has been greater to a marked extent than ever before. There still remains the disputed question, the relative advantages of open and closed debates respectively. We are in favor of open debates for the animation and interest that characterizes them. But apart from all conjectures and *a priori* reasonings, the fact remains that they do not bring forward the Freshmen. The Society have shown their wish to do this in dividing the years, but the superior remedy, it appears to us, has yet to come. If the leaders in the open debates, especially the leader of the affirmative, were merely to sketch the argument and not exhaust it, more speakers would appear. If this system is pursued in future, we may have open debates with the proper amount of "freedom and friskiness," as well as speakers from all the years.

ONE OF THE COMMITTEE.

A PLEA FOR THE FRESHMEN.

The account given in the last number of the 'Varsity of the late hazing episode is probably as near correct as the evident bias of the writer's mind in favor of the "seniors" would allow any one to be. Though some of the statements there made seem to clash with what the victims assert as the facts of the case, I am willing to let them stand as a tolerably fair explanation; but I cannot agree with principles that are there enunciated or implied, and which seem to be accepted by the majority of the students of our College, especially those in the upper years.

As to the circumstances which led to the hazing, the seniors were certainly the aggressors. Previous to the announcement that the Glee Club was to sing a song in which the First Year men were supposed to be held up to ridicule of some kind, no particular fault could be found with the conduct of these gentlemen. When it was understood, however, that such a song was to be sung, while the real character of the production was unknown to them, they naturally resented being distinguished from the rest of the undergraduates in any such way. That they finally showed so much forbearance is much to their credit, and stands out in strong contrast to the conduct of their opponents.

Far too much importance is attached to difference of academic standing in the social system of University College. It would be to the advantage of all parties if every student would found his regard for every other student on personal considerations, and not on any artificial distinction of year or residence. Many honest and sensible members of the lower years would thus be appreciated at their true worth, and some of the jackdaws of the upper years would be forced to part with a little of their borrowed plumage. Those professors and lecturers who expect matriculants to be gentleman before they come here, and treat them as such, find as a rule that they are not mistaken in their estimate. If a registrar would refrain from indulging his wit in making invidious distinctions in notices, and a vice-chancellor from making unjust allegations for the sake of preserving order at certain seasons, it would better accord with the dignity of their offices, and they would be more likely to secure the respect of all classes. If 'Varsity itself, might I venture to say, would cease ascribing all the peccadilloes, blunders, and misfortunes of the student community to the devoted "freshie," it would be more likely to enlist the sympathy and support of those upon whom it must soon depend for existence.

It seems to me to be high time that the old party lines of "resident" and "outsider," where there are no principles to contend for which are worthy of the exertions put forth at election times, should be forgotten, and a new party formed whose leading plank might be equal rights for all undergraduates.

The ungenerous manner in which First Year men are wont to be treated at college, and the wearing of caps and gowns, might then be ranged side by side as relics of barbarism; and some efforts might be made for the abolition of both grievances.

LEVELLER.

NOTICE.

The 'Varsity is published every Saturday during the Academic Year, October to May inclusive.

The Annual Subscription, including postage, is \$1.50, in advance, and may be forwarded to Mr. A. F. LOBB, University College, Toronto, to whom applications respecting Advertisements should likewise be made.

Copies of the 'Varsity may be obtained every Saturday of Mr. WILKINSON, corner of Adelaide and Toronto Streets.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR, University College, Toronto.

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