

and among many others the peculiarities of the *Stipa Sparta* were alluded to. It was commonly known as the wild oat, or spear grass. This grass seeded in July or early in August. It was simply an oat with a long arm. The oat was pointed at one end and barbed with numerous bristles, while the whole length of the arm showed barbed teeth—the whole being wonderfully adapted for clinging and boring. The ripe oat was jerked out of its receptacle by wind or passing animals. It falls point downwards, and presently the arm bends in the middle, at right angles. The horizontal part then gives itself about three twists, so as to make good its hold in the grass, and having done so, the perpendicular part, with the horizontal part as a lever, begins to turn round and so bore itself into the ground. Generally it was found to have turned about nine times. The revolutions observed were made in six minutes each, and the action was accelerated by warmth. The plant was most interesting from the belief of many that the oat would catch in the wool of sheep, bore its way through the skin, and cause mortification and death. Enquiry showed, however, that no serious results were to be feared, as the sheep would eat down the grass, and when once the oat has fallen its boring powers are at once exhausted.

If the other alumni of Toronto University and students of University College were to stand by and uphold the cause of their Alma Mater as does the editor of the *Toronto World*, we venture to assert that funds would not be wanting; the Government would not be besieged for new grants; the loyalty of thought would show itself in liberal, gratuitous, private donations. Editors are not rich; therefore Toronto needs funds. But the editor can supply argument, and he has endeavored to do so. Not merely have we admired the pluck and perseverance of the *World* in this question, even though differing in opinions somewhat, but in other lines, political and social, this daily has shown a dash and enterprise indicative of vigor and ability. We do not think, however, that the devoting of a column and a half of the front page to an exhibition in the