

been guilty of extreme carelessness in not delivering the papers as directed.

"We have strong reasons to suppose, and in fact know, that in many instances newspapers addressed to the Union have in some way or other been appropriated by the Debating Society; we do not say intentionally, but we do know that repeated remonstrance with the officers of that society have had no effect in causing papers erroneously delivered to the Debating Society to be forwarded to their proper destination.

"We are unwilling to believe that the Debating Society would willfully abstract the property of the Union, but as our officers have not the power of visiting the reading room of that society to make enquiry into the matter, we have trusted to the feelings of good will and kindness which should exist between members of the same College to prevent any such misappropriation, but circumstances have lately come to light which, much to our regret, compel us to appeal to the authorities of the College to protect us from a continuance of this evil.

"We do not ask any university patronage, we seek no collegiate encouragement; being aware that, however, we might desire such a favour, it would be impossible for us to obtain it at present, but we do desire, as a society whose objects are not improper, that we may be protected from being defrauded, either intentionally or unintentionally, of our property, by any person or persons over whom the University has control.

"Trusting to your uniform kindness and attention to the wishes of the members of the College, and confident that the redress which we seek will be promptly awarded, we remain, reverend sir,

Yours most respectfully,

_____, Secretary,

_____, Librarian.

"On behalf of the Union.

"TRINITY COLLEGE, December 7, 1853."

* WHAT IS A NOVEL?

IN a dainty little volume of a hundred beautifully printed pages, Mr. F. Marion Crawford writes with his usual grace and charm of style of the novel and what it is. Mr. Crawford has decided views on what the novel is and ought to be, and being himself a novelist of wide repute and general favour, what he has to say in the matter will be regarded with no small interest and curiosity. Everybody who has a regard for things literary will like to know what Mr. Crawford considers the essentials of a good novel.

The distinguished author begins by affirming that his answer to the question, What is a novel? can only be a statement of opinion, and that he makes this statement with much deference to the prejudices of his brethren. Pointing out how difficult it is to give the result of one's experiences because of the misunderstanding which arises from the different way in which common terms are understood by different people, he answers the question by defining the novel as an intellectual artistic luxury. It must appeal to the intellect, satisfy the requirements of art, and be a luxury in that it can be of no use to a man when at work, but may conduce to peace of mind and delectation during his leisure hours. Mr. Crawford shows that the point upon which people differ is the artistic one, and the fact that such differences of opinion exist makes it possible that two writers as widely separated as Mr. Henry James and Mr. Rider Haggard, for instance, find appreciative readers in the same year of the same century—a fact which the literary history of the future will find it hard to explain.

* *The Novel: What it is.* By F. Marion Crawford. Toronto: The Williamson Book Company.

We are quite prepared to find that Mr. Crawford hits the "novel-with-a purpose" some very pretty blows. He asks, Why not compound the words and call the odious thing a "purpose-novel"? The purpose-novel, then, is an intellectual moral lesson instead of an intellectual artistic luxury; it is "an odious attempt to lecture people who hate lectures, to preach at people who prefer their own church, and to teach people who think they know enough already." A man buys what "purports to be a work of fiction, romance, a novel, a story of adventure, pays his money, takes his book home, prepares to enjoy it at his ease, and discovers that he has paid his dollar for somebody's views on socialism, religion, or the divorce laws." Mr. Crawford holds that whilst a novel may educate the taste and cultivate the intelligence, and be an exposition of all that is noble, heroic, honest and true in the life of woman and man, it has no right to tell us what its writer thinks about the relations of labour and capital, nor to set up what the author conceives to be a nice, original, easy scheme of salvation.

That preaching and teaching should be kept out of novels we quite believe, even apart altogether from the question whether or not they are in place, for the qualifications necessary to fit one for preaching and teaching are not as a rule possessed by the novelist. We can think of no better case in point than the ridiculous exhibition of preaching and teaching made by the accomplished lady who some years ago favoured the world with that now almost, if not quite, forgotten purpose-novel, "Robert Elsmere."

Mr. Crawford seems to be a little restive under the limitations placed upon the realism of the novelist by the ubiquitous young girl. In our Anglo-Saxon social system the young girl is everywhere. She decides, says he, what we are to hear at the theatre and, so far as our own language is concerned, determines to a great extent what we are to read. It is difficult to determine from what Mr. Crawford says whether or not he would approve the creation of a literature resembling as a whole that of the French. But later on, in speaking of the perfect novel, he declares that it must be clean and sweet, for it must tell its tale to all mankind. No doubt Mr. Crawford would favour a wise and animated moderation with respect to realism.

In our limited space it is not possible to touch upon many of the points in this clever little book. We must refer our readers to the book itself. It will well repay study. What Mr. Crawford says of the "realist" and the "romantist" is of peculiar interest, and his advocacy of the combination of romance and reality will find much support amongst the readers of fiction. The realist proposes to show men what they are; the romantist tries to show what men should be.

CARTER TROOP.

CONVOCATION.

THE course in Pharmacy recently established by the Corporation is now put into working order. The Degree of *Phar. B.* will hereafter be conferred on candidates who have attended the necessary courses of lectures, and passed the examinations to be held each year in May, on the subjects of pharmacy, chemistry, materia medica, and botany (including microscopy). Besides this the candidates will first have to show they possess some knowledge in Latin, and they must have passed the regular exam. for a teacher's certificate or the matriculation exam. for this or some recognized university. The degree of *Phar. D.* will be conferred on those who have in addition passed an examination on the higher work connected with some of the above subjects.

The following are the results of the voting for members of the Council, held last month: Elected by the graduates