

## GENERAL COLLEGE NOTES.

The *Review*, published at Oxford University, is the only English college journal edited by undergraduates.

President Timothy Dwight has received a \$20,000 gift for Yale University from Alexander Duncan, of London, who was graduated in 1825. Mr. Duncan states that he desires the money to be used in providing immediate necessities of the University.

Newton Theological Seminary, founded in 1825, has sixty-one students, of whom eight are in the senior class, eighteen in the middle class and twenty-three in the junior class. Of the seniors two are graduates of Brown University, one of Harvard, one of Cornell and two of Colby.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Vassar College were surprised last week by the receipt of the resignation by Professor Maria Mitchell, of the chair of astronomy held by her, she insisting upon her need of rest. They at once laid the resignation on the table, passed a resolution giving her an indefinite leave of absence, and directing the payment to her of the entire salary of the professorship until the Board of Trustees, at its June meeting, shall take further action. Professor Mitchell has laboured in the cause of science for half a century, one-quarter of a century having been passed at Vassar College.

It is said that of the 120 Chinese youths who were sent to American colleges in detachments of thirty, under the charge of the Chinese Commission, all but about a dozen have obtained positions in their own country in different departments of the Government, as civil engineers or as naval officers or teachers in the naval school. Of the few who returned to this country, the majority are Chinese Consuls; some are attached to the Chinese Legation. One, Hong Yen Chang, a graduate of the Columbia Law School, is striving for admission to the Bar in New York.

## Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

The following very interesting letter has been received from Rev J. H. Messmore, missionary at Bareilly, India, and which we are sure will be of interest to the readers of THE VARSITY. Mr. Messmore is the father of our fellow-student, Mr. Frank Messmore, '89.

Bareilly, Oct. 1st, 1887.

To the officers and members of the Missionary Association of the Y. M. C. A., University College, Toronto.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—As I am a Canadian and have been for 27 years a missionary in India, it is not inappropriate for me to send you a fraternal communication. I have noticed with much interest the increasing attention given to mission work by College students in both England and America, and I was much pleased to find the name of Toronto standing so high in the list of places that had responded to the appeal for missionary candidates, sent out by the deputation from Princeton Seminary. It is eminently fitting that Universities should be centres of missionary interest, for the conditions of Christian Propagandism require a high grade of scholarship on the part of those who would engage in such work. This is especially true of India, and it is the plain duty of every young man who is thinking of becoming a missionary to secure the highest possible literary equipment for the work. The 20th century will be a very earnest one in more than one part of the earth. It begins to look as though all the unsettled questions of the past, together with a perplexing number of new ones, were to be precipitated upon us. Social Science and Theology are the foci upon which will centre the chief attention of the armies in the conflict, and the Peninsula of India will, I think, be the area of the hottest strife. I cannot say that I altogether envy the men who will work as Christian missionaries in India during the 20th century. All the materials of a "first-class row" are rapidly forming in this country, and the angel of peace is spreading his wings in anticipation of a long flight and very uncertain return. We have here five universities, matriculating more than five thousand yearly. In a few years the number of university-educated men in India will be reckoned by hundreds of thousands, and this vast army of brilliant men, cut loose from their ancestral faiths, clamorous for political independence and religious freedom, and utterly destitute of reverence for anything except their own opinions, will make it very hot for whatever government may be in power, and for all those who shall attempt any sort of religious leadership or propagandism among them. Arguments from authority will have little weight with these men, and the Christian preacher, teacher, or philosopher who hopes to work among them must be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within him. A large proportion of the European and native professors in the colleges of India are non-Christian, if not anti-Christian, and hence the influence of these schools is largely hostile to Christianity. The

philosophy, the philology, ethnology, physics taught are all made to work in some way or other against Christianity. The missionary who wins converts to Christ from these colleges will need a very broad equipment of extra-theological learning to fit him for his work. You are a missionary association of the Y. M. C. A. This is a very promising consociation of effort. A well-managed Y. M. C. A. is a valuable training school for the missionary recruit. Were I selecting missionary recruits I would be unwilling to take any man who had not already, by activity in city mission work or in the Y. M. C. A., shown his personal interest in the spiritual welfare of the people about him. If a man has the missionary spirit in him, he will be a missionary wherever he is, whether in Toronto or Lucknow. On this account I feel that your association is the right thing in the right place, and that from among your number missionaries of the right stamp will be found.

J. H. MESSMORE.

## IGNORANCE OF THE BIBLE.

A Cambridge student, when examined upon the Inspiration of the Bible, was asked, "What connection he remembered between the Old and New Testament?" He answered "That only one came to his recollection, and that was the fact that Peter cut off the ear of the prophet Malachi."

## LOVE—THE SUPREME GIFT.

Love is not a thing of emotion and gush. It is a robust, strong, vigorous expression of the whole character and nature in its fullest development. And these things are only to be acquired by daily and hourly practice. Don't quarrel, therefore, with your lot in life. Don't quarrel with the quality you have of life. Don't be angry that you have to go through a network of temptation—that you are haunted with it every day. That is your practice, which God appoints you. That is your practice, and it is having its work in making you patient, and humble, and sincere, and unselfish, and kind, and generous, and guileless. Don't begrudge the hand that is moulding the shapeless image in you; it is growing more beautiful; and every touch is adding to its perfection. Keep in the midst of life. Don't isolate yourself. Be among men, and among things, and among troubles, and amongst difficulties, and obstacles. You remember Goethe's words: "Talent develops itself in solitude"—the talent of prayer, of faith. "Character in the stream of life." That is where you are to learn love.—*Drummond at Northfield.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and will appear every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the academic public. The and will always seek the highest interests of our University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate, containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

This week Mr. Keefer's article on Engineering is given. Next week it is expected that Mr. Seath's paper on The Teaching Profession will appear. "Dryburgh Abbey" is concluded in this issue.

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