

## THE VARSITY.

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### A UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

THE VARSITY has been continually urging upon the university authorities of this province the appointment of a Permanent University Commission. Thus far, without success. But we are not dismayed; being convinced of the utility of, and necessity for, such an organization. What has been suggested is a Commission to be formed of representatives of each of the different Universities and Colleges of Ontario, to bring about some sort of uniformity in regard to the general standards for matriculation, and degrees in Arts, Medicine, Law, Science, and Theology.

It cannot be doubted that much positive good would result from the formation of a Commission which would be empowered to deal with such questions. Much diversity exists at present, much jealousy, and much needless misconception. Each college seems to wish to work upon divergent, instead of upon convergent lines; and other and less exalted rivalries than that of giving the highest and best education have unfortunately crept in. A great deal of all this trouble arises, we believe, more from misunderstanding and from ignorance of one another's methods, than from any other cause. Much of it could be removed by the co-operation of university men all over the Province. There is nothing like personal intercourse to do away with misconception and jealousy.

Besides, there are questions of interest in the educational world which intimately affect society and the state, and upon which the proposed Commission could throw much light. It could also influence public opinion by the weight and concentrated force of its counsels and judgment. If we cannot have a corporate and an actual University Federation, we could and should have some such unity in feeling, sentiment and aim. The proposed University Commission could supply all these requisites without interfering with the local autonomy, or with the freest exercise of individual policy of the various colleges forming the Commission.

To whom will belong the honour of moving first in this much-to-be desired direction? Without the slighted desire to appear to "run" things we would suggest that the Provincial University should move in the matter. As the State Institution such a movement might very properly be inaugurated under her auspices, and there appears to be no reason to doubt that the other colleges would follow her example.

### THE NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

The appointment of Mr. J. M. Gibson, M.P.P. for Hamilton, to the position of Provincial Secretary for Ontario has caused very general satisfaction. Especially among Toronto University men is this satisfaction felt, since the new member of the Cabinet is a graduate, and a distinguished one, of the Provincial University. The Hon. Lt.-Colonel John Morison Gibson, M.A., L.L.B., M.P.P., is a Canadian, and was born in the Township of Toronto, County of Peel, on New Year's Day, 1842, and is consequently 47 years of age. He was educated at the Central School, Hamilton, under Dr. J. H. Sangster, and was head boy of the public schools of his native town when he finished his school days. He matriculated in the University

of Toronto in 1859 and pursued the regular undergraduate course of four years, winning prizes and scholarships every year. In 1860 he was 1st year prizeman in Oriental Languages, and carried off the English Essay prize; in 1861, he was 3rd year prizeman in Metaphysics and Ethics, History, the French, German and Italian group, and won the Literary Society's prize for Public Speaking; in 1862, he carried off the prizes in Metaphysics and Ethics, History, English, the French, German, Italian and Spanish group, and Oriental Languages; in 1863 he graduated, taking the Prince of Wales' prize, at that time bestowed on the most distinguished graduate of the year. In addition to this he carried off the Silver Medal in Classics and in Modern Languages at graduation. In 1869 Mr. Gibson graduated in the Faculty of Law, receiving also the Gold Medal in that department. During his undergraduate career, Mr. Gibson took an interest in University local politics, and filled several of the most important offices in the Literary Society.

In military affairs, Col. Gibson has taken a prominent part. During the Trent excitement in 1861 he enrolled himself in "K" Company with many of the professors and students. After leaving the University he joined the 13th Battalion, of Hamilton, and rose from the ranks to the command of the regiment, which he now holds. He was present at Ridgeway in 1866. As a rifleman, Col. Gibson has always taken a high place. He was a member of the Canadian Wimbledon team in the years 1874, 1875, 1879, and in 1881 commanded the team, winning the Prince of Wales' prize of £100 and badge. Col. Gibson is a member of the Councils of the Dominion and the Ontario Rifle Associations, and is President of the Victoria Rifle Club, of Hamilton.

In educational affairs the Hon. Mr. Gibson has always taken a great interest. For many years he was a member of the Hamilton Board of Education, being its chairman for two years. At the first election of members of the Senate of the Provincial University, under the Act re-constituting the Senate, he was honoured by his fellow-graduates by being one of the first Senators selected. He has continued a member of that body ever since, having been subsequently re-elected in 1878, 1883, and 1888. He was examiner in the Faculty of Law in 1872 and 1873.

In Politics the new Provincial Secretary is a Liberal. He has represented the City of Hamilton continuously since the year 1879. Upon the retirement of the Hon. Mr. Crooks as Minister of Education, Mr. Gibson was freely mentioned as his most fit successor, but the political exigencies of the time prevented his acceptance of the portfolio. In 1884 he was appointed to the important chairmanship of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, a position requiring the exercise of much tact and judgment, and it is needless to say that he has acquitted himself admirably.

In private life the Hon. Mr. Gibson is a cultured and courteous gentleman, affable and approachable. The country is to be congratulated upon his appointment to a Cabinet office; perhaps a future rearrangement of portfolios will place Mr. Gibson in a position for which his talents and training specially fit him. But whatever office he may be called upon to occupy in the service of his country, he will acquit himself, we are sure, with credit to himself and advantage to the State. THE VARSITY congratulates him heartily upon his appointment and wishes him a long career of honour and usefulness.

### A COLLEGE COURT.

In a paragraph in "Round the Table" last year, THE VARSITY thus expressed itself with reference to the Hazing Question:—

"More than usual interest is taken in the present discussion on hazing; the undergraduates who are in revolt against the Mufti do not content themselves, as in former years, with expressions of disapproval, but are forming a defence league. It is now conceded by those whom the authors of the circular are pleased to call the more respectable adherents of an old