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QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL

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SINCE there is a misconception in some quarters as to the relation which the Alma Mater Society bears to the students and faculty, and a tendency to overlook its importance, it becomes necessary to point out what its true position and value is. The fact that it affords an invaluable means of culture as a debating society is alone a sufficient reason for its existence, and for receiving the hearty support of every student. But apart from this, as its President ably pointed out in his inaugural address, its existence is essential in conducting the affairs which properly belong to the students. For the benefit of those who did not hear his address we quote his words: "The A. M. S. has under its care the Athletic Association with its various branches; it has direct management of the JOURNAL; it has a motherly oversight of the Glee Club, and it directly manages everything connected with the potential existence of the gymnasium. It is the student's society, since every student becomes a member. It prevents disorder and discord, and cultivates a feeling of manly self-reliance. And, more than this, it is the one connecting link between the students and the faculty." In its relation to the faculty, we would add, it is the one recognized channel of communication. Through it the students may state their grievance, if such arise, and give authoritative expression to their wishes; by means of it also the faculty is brought into closer touch with the students and is enabled to form a truer estimate of their needs. All important questions of general interest should therefore be discussed in its meetings, or in mass meetings called only by its authority. If this rule were always adhered to, misunderstandings could not so easily arise. On these three grounds it must be admitted that the A. M. S. is necessary to the welfare of the University. We urge these thoughts not only to increase the interest of those who take part in the work of the society, but

also for the benefit of those who through want of consideration undervalue its importance.

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Almost every one of the three hundred and eighty colleges in the United States has a College Journal which is, generally speaking, highly appreciated and liberally supported. The same thing may be said of our Canadian universities. In fact, it would seem as if our little college world could no more do without its fortnightly or monthly publications than the political world without its dailies. So important have these college papers become of late years that four American colleges, Princeton, Harvard, Yale and Cornell have each deemed it advisable to issue dailies. But despite these facts the trustees of John Hopkins' university have adopted the following resolution:— "That it is not desirable that any publication be issued by the students of this university without the consent of the Board of Trustees, and that the publication of any newspaper by any person or persons connected with the university is forbidden."

But the students of John Hopkins' are not alone in their unfortunate position, for the undergraduates of Chattanooga university have to contend with a similar but more vigorous resolution. The college authorities in this case not only requested that the appointment of the journal staff should be in their hands, but demanded that "every line of matter should be submitted to them before publication."

The students very wisely refused "to spend their time and money on an enterprise that must be carried on under such servile mortifications." It is quite evident that some one has blundered, but the circumstantial evidence is not sufficiently conclusive to enable us to detect the guilty party. We cannot think that the administration of either university above referred to would take such decided steps if the former editor or editors had kept within reasonable limits. Nor would we be hasty in attaching blame to the previous managers of the journals. Be the cause what and where it may, two things are certain; not only is it a mistake for 'Varsity authorities to control a college journal and consequently cancel student interest in a paper intended from its very beginning to be conducted by the students and chiefly for the students; but on the other hand it is a grievous error to make the columns of any academic paper the medium for offending professor, graduate or undergraduate, and thereby causing strife. Contention breeds dissolution for "a house divided against itself cannot stand." It should ever be remembered that all who are in any way closely identified with a college form one body with common interests. Granting then that the publication of a journal is a good and almost necessary thing for any university, then it