

The Varsity

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TORONTO, OCTOBER 13, 1911

UNDERGRADUATE OPINION

Next to giving the news, the object of the Editors of The Varsity is to reflect the opinion and feeling of the undergraduates of Toronto. It is impossible, however, for a small staff, no matter how representative, no matter how energetic they may be, accurately to gauge that opinion and feeling. They must have help from the undergraduates, in every year, in every college. There is one way in which the student can help us in this; that is, by letters. We want letters from any undergrad. on any subject of interest. We cannot, of course, promise to publish all letters received; but we can and do promise to give any letter sent to The Varsity every attention; and it is inevitable that such letters will influence the tone of the paper. We are eager to be so influenced; and we urge every man or woman who has views, needs, or ideas, on, for or about anything of more than private interest to write soon and often.

This is addressed not merely to the Arts colleges, not merely to the graduating years, not merely to the officers of the various societies and University or College organizations, but to every undergraduate in every college. The Varsity is yours. You, finally, control it, through the Parliament. Make it serve you by reflecting your opinion, by voicing your views, by giving attention to the things you are interested in. There is only one way—write! Mr. or Miss Undergraduate, let us hear from you.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Friday evening all students will have an opportunity of hearing Mr. G. T. Blackstock, K.C., in Convocation Hall. Mr. Blackstock is very well known as the lawyer who has charge of the prosecution for the Crown in important trials in the province. He is an example of the public man with whom University students should be acquainted. It is the custom of the Literary Society of University College to invite such speakers and invite also the students and their friends to certain of its meetings. In this way a representative gathering of all students is obtained and it is only fair to the speaker that this gathering should be a large one. As the Literary Society is the only organization to our knowledge holding meetings of this kind, all undergraduates should support it in this enterprise. The larger the meeting, the easier it is to get a public speaker of note to address us. Let everyone turn out and show Mr. Blackstock that the University is interested in Canada's public men.

The other speakers, President Falconer and Principal Hutton, will be very welcome, as they are not often heard at "unofficial" gatherings of students. That the meeting will not be restricted to speeches is assured by a musical programme which reminds one of the "cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer and all kinds of musick" of King Nebuchadnezzar.

TRAGEDY

Down the long corridor in University College staggered what had once been a hale and hearty fourth year man. He still appeared hale and hearty, but the sterling eyes and wobbling gait betokened something seriously wrong. With difficulty he got to the rotunda, then fell exhausted, his swollen tongue mumbling thickly, "Water!" Someone rushed to the corner stared, and then turned away helplessly, repeating the words "Not a drop to drink" in a dazed sort of way. A freshman, sizing up the situation with the quickness of his kind, made record time across the campus to the Library, stared likewise, and likewise turned, groaning "All, all are gone!" A sophomore, after some pondering, sped to the City Dairy for some buttermilk but before he could return, the unfortunate senior had passed away, muttering incoherently about babbling brooks and crystal springs.

We are unable to learn whether any investigation will be made into this sad affair.

RUGBY AT TRINITY

Grads. and College Team Had Good Time

Saturday's rugby game with the grads was a success in more ways than one. Besides convincing the team that there is room for improvement in their play, it afforded the would-bees of Trinity the chance to see some of our former stars in action, and clearly demonstrated the fact that a man cannot forget how to play football any more than he can the art of swimming. Although the college came out on the agreeable end of the fifteen to six score, they had to work hard all the way and only clinched their victory in the final quarter. Luman was as efficient as ever both in leading backs and in punting. He opened the scoring for his team with a dandy drop in goal. Clarke and Willis have lost neither their speed nor cleverness in dodging. Hately, disabled early in the season last year, played a good steady game at back for the college. The scrimmage line, being the same as last year stood its ground well, but the wings were composed of new players, consequently they were weak in spots. The grads, who lined up against the team were Johnson, McGowan, Smith, de Fallot, Proudfoot and Greening, the remaining places being filled by volunteer students of the college. Mike Morley, a graduate of '10 made a good referee. After the game several of the Old Boys were present at Chapel and at dinner just for the sake of old times.

SLANDER

Continuation of "A Terrible Plot."

He was not prepossessing, certainly, as he drew out of the shadows. Short, thin, angular—his clothes flapping about him like the romantic rags of a scare-crow. He made a strange figure in the mystic lights of the night.

A cold, piercing wind was raging up and down the campus, attempting to add its own chilling insults to the injuries of a drizzling rain. Here and there, around us, like the hours of a ghostly clockdial, nodded a few sleepy street-lamps.

"Hello, friend," said he, swinging along beside me. "Few things, except men and books, so fickle and dishonest as weather, ay?"

"Well, its enmity surely is out-spoken to-night," I replied.

"When I wander out on an evening like this," he continued, "and feel the stringing blows coming from goodness only knows where, I am reminded of the million and one men whose angry vanity finds vent in just some such way. Stabs in the dark are fair and honourable compared to the sneaking insinuation that befools a name, or the venomous pamphlet, cloaked under a non de plume, that stalks forth and robs a reputation.

"Seems to me you speak as one of rather bitter experience."

"Well perhaps I do; but this is no place for conversation. Come over to my room for an hour or so. We can talk in comparative quiet, and I have a few things there that might interest you."

Ten minutes later I found myself seated in a large armchair beside his sitting-room table.

As he drew his own chair up opposite me, the green rays of the drop-lamp fell across

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his face. Immediately I was struck by its peculiar appearance. A thin, bitter face it was—sickly, emaciated as though the tentacles of mental anguish had sucked the life out of it. The chin was weak. The mouth was large and drooping. The forehead, though low, was wide; and gave one the idea that here, once upon a time, had lurked some little strength. What struck me as the most vivid feature, however, was the peculiar color of his eyes. They were blood red, and in moments of abstraction, rolled upward as if seeking a light from above. Had a forest been changed into a barren waste it would have typified what I saw in that face. Our conversation, for a time, was along general lines; and I was much interested in his views on politics and religion. He held that all men have a right to private judgement, providing of course, they proved themselves capable of making just estimates of people and things. For instance," he said, "I have seen a fellow actually weep over the death beds of Don Quixote and Sir Roger de Coverley. When one can be affected by such 'yellow' appeals—well, to put it mildly, he has a very degenerated sense of pathos and should be placed under the care of decency at once.

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