

# THE 'VARSITY:

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## Editorial Notes.

The friends of the 'VARSITY can very materially advance the interests of their paper by patronizing those business men who advertise in our columns. Whenever other things are equal, or even nearly so, a decided preference should be given to the merchants and others who use the 'VARSITY as a means of advertising.

It is to be admitted that in many cases of disagreement between the students of a college and the faculty, the fault clearly lies with the former. Being human, students are not exceptions to the old law, "*humanum est errare.*" Neither, however, are professors, and the cause of the recent disturbances at King's College, N. S., seems to be, as far as present evidence goes, the arbitrary and contemptuous treatment of the students by the principal himself. If this is the case, it is evident that that official labors under the impression that colleges exist for the benefit, not of the students, but of the faculty—a very serious misapprehension, certainly, but one that is unfortunately not altogether unprecedented.

Comparing great things with small, the Russian Government, like the police of Toronto, seem determined to put down students with a strong hand. Nearly one thousand students were recently expelled from the University of Kiev and sentenced to military service in penal regiments stationed in distant regions of the empire. The grounds alleged for this severe treatment were that the students showed strong indications of disaffection towards the government. It is a stupid way of dealing with these matters surely, to punish disaffected persons with such barbaric severity rather than to seek out and remove the cause of the disaffection. A *prima facie* case is made out against the government which finds it necessary to treat as criminals the most intelligent class of its citizens—the class whose special feature is that they have too much enlightenment to submit passively to arbitrary power, by whomsoever exercised.

The appearance of Rev. Principal Nelles at Trinity College the other day presents another phase in the university question. That Dr. Nelles, the President of a Methodist University, should have taken part in a gathering of the supporters of that section of the Anglican communion always considered to be hostile to Methodism, may have surprised some people. Still more, may his speech delivered on that occasion, and his advice to all members of the Church of England to "rally around Trinity College," have been puzzling and perplexing. But we understand these circumstances to mean simply this: The outlying Colleges and Universities intend to unite, at least in feeling and opinion, in their determination to enter any proposed Confederation of Colleges not as mere Theological Schools, but as thoroughly equipped and first-class Arts Colleges. Why there should be any opposition to a scheme for a Confederation of Colleges such

as at Oxford and Cambridge, where proficiency is the only known and recognized rivalry, is very strange to us.

In view of the recent discussions upon the question of State aid to denominational colleges, the subjoined expression of opinion is most valuable. The fact that this opinion comes from a body of men both exceedingly capable of forming a correct opinion on the matter, and in presumption entirely unprejudiced regarding it, furnishes a strong argument to those who oppose the granting of State aid to those institutions.—"While this Association sympathizes with those churches which have heroically founded and cheerfully sustained denominational colleges at great sacrifice in the early history of our country, still it is the opinion of this Association that to grant State aid to such institutions would be out of harmony with the educational progress of the province of Ontario, as well as detrimental to their own spiritual interests." This resolution was carried unanimously, in the Central Association of Congregational Ministers and Churches assembled last week at Pine Grove.

At the first meeting of the present session of the Canadian Institute, held on Saturday evening last, two of our Professors presented the results of their summer's work. Prof. Young gave remarkably simple proofs of the well known theorems of Galois and Kronecker, the demonstrations of which have up to the present been very obscure. Prof. Young's greatest discovery, however, is the solution of quintic equations. This problem, which has baffled the greatest mathematicians for years, and which has hitherto been attacked by means of a resolvent sextic, has at length been solved without the aid of a sextic. The author first deduces the conditions under which the equation is solvable and then actually solves the problem. At the same meeting Prof. Loudon explained a new method of discussing the properties of thick lenses, which is also applicable to the case of thin lenses. His method consists in imagining there to be two axes instead of one—an object axis and an image axis—and by separating these axes and imagining them to intersect at different points, the investigation of the properties reduces to that of some simple properties in Analytical Geometry. With such able scholars as these on our staff surely there can be nothing but the most brilliant future for our University. It might be added that J. C. Glashan, of Ottawa, a well known mathematician, and an undergraduate of Toronto University, has, simultaneously with Dr. Young, arrived at the same results by a totally different method. We understand that both the papers referred to above are to be published in the *Canadian Journal* as well as in the *American Journal of Mathematics*. The achievements of Professors Young and Loudon will do much to increase the reputation of University College at home and abroad. At least two members of our faculty had previously acquired continental if not European distinction. The possibilities before University College in this line several years ago, however, were even greater than have been realized. It is stated that Thomas Huxley once vainly applied for a position on our staff, and more recently, through the inscrutable wisdom of our Educational Office, the now famous Grant Allan was a rejected applicant.