

all these conflicting elements is a task which few men but Gladstone could hope to accomplish. How far he will succeed, it will be interesting to see. Few will envy him his position.

In accordance with a requisition from a number of graduates of the University of Toronto, the executive committee of Convocation has called a meeting of that body, to be held in Moss Hall, on the evening of Friday, the 12th instant. The main object of the signers of the requisition seems to be the adoption of such measures as will secure a large increase in the number of graduate representatives upon the Senate of the University. There are two special reasons why our graduates should at once take vigorous action upon this matter. The Ontario statutes are about to be consolidated, and it would be well if such an important amendment to the University Acts could be made during the present session of the Legislature and before the consolidation takes place. In the second place, the desire of graduates for increased representation finds full justification in the fact that since the number of their representatives was last fixed, now thirteen years since, the equilibrium in the Senate, which was then established, has been very seriously disturbed by the admission of five new members representing affiliated institutions. Besides this matter of increased representation, there are other questions which we hope to see taken up by Convocation. There should be some change in the system of calling the meetings of the Senate. These meetings are now held on all imaginable and unimaginable occasions, and it is said that the notices are so imperfectly served that members of the Senate residing at a distance sometimes know nothing of the meeting until a day or two after it is over. Then, there is a very strong desire on the part of University men that more publicity should be given to the proceedings of the Senate. If it is considered injudicious to admit reporters to the meetings, there seems to be no sufficient reason why a full official report should be not given to the public through the University journal. Projects of the greatest importance to the welfare of the University have been frequently put through in such a star chamber fashion as to be known only to the prime movers (and who are they?) until the fact was accomplished. It is only a very short time since we were called upon to notice an occurrence of this kind. The African which we then declared to be concealed about the premises somewhere has not yet been discovered, and the University public are anxious to get a peep at him. These and other matters are well worthy of the serious attention of Convocation, and it is to be hoped that they will receive ample discussion.

A year since the VARSITY had occasion to call attention to the partial absence in the life about University College of one of the real elements of college life, the cultivation by means of social intercourse of the acquaintance and friendship of one's fellow students. This is something to be regretted for itself. It is to be regretted, too, for its effects, for to it, regarding it as having been the state of things for some time back, is undoubtedly attributable an existing lack of interest on the part of our University men throughout the country in their fellow University men, and a lack of interest on both sides in the institution which is the source of the relationship existing between them. We pointed out at that time the necessity, in or about the College, of proper apartments, where the men might meet during leisure hours free from restraints of lecture or reading-room. We mention these things as introductory to a proposal which certainly deserves the attention and consideration which this note would ask for it. The proposal is this: To procure for such purposes as indicated, and also for such purposes as Moss Hall at present serves, though in a very inadequate way, the old King's College building on the east side of the Park. The structure would in the interior require re-building. But the walls are good, the floor joisting is good, the timbers of the roof are

good. By far the best and more expensive portion of the building is there. In the reconstructed interior might be situated, on the ground floor, the gymnasium, a large room for general recreation purposes, and smaller rooms for the different societies. On the upper floor might be a large hall, with a smaller one at the end, these to be connected by a removable wooden partition. This hall would suffice for public debates, for public lectures, when the course is founded, and might be occasionally loaned to the University authorities for examination or Convocation purposes, and might be used also for the holding of the annual dinner. As regards expenditure, what does such a plan mean? It means an outlay of between three and four thousand dollars. Not an overwhelming amount. If in a short time the Y. M. C. A., a portion only of the student body, were able to raise almost twice the amount, surely the entire body should not quail before it. But the voluntary subscription plan we would not suggest. We believe that a properly arranged and well managed annual series of public lectures would pay for the building in a very short time. The venture might, however, be more properly made by means of a joint stock concern. Form a company, issue shares at say five dollars per share to the amount of \$4,000. Meet this yearly on the sinking fund basis or guarantee a respectable interest and redeem the stock by degrees as it became possible. A small nominal fee for general membership, an assessment on the special societies, and an annual grant from the Council equal to that at present given for the expenses of Moss Hall, would easily meet running expenses and provide for the interest. The principal might be met in the way above indicated. The scheme is not visionary, it is essentially practicable.

Leading Article.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

Propositions have from time to time been made with a view to placing our Law Department upon an efficient working basis. These propositions have generally been received with favor by all true friends of liberal education, but after being proposed and discussed and approved, they have been allowed to drop, owing, it is presumed, to the lack of funds which so seriously hampers our University, and prevents it in great measure from performing the proper functions of a State University for this Province.

The necessity for some organized system of legal education in this Province must be apparent to any person who takes the trouble to consider the matter.

It is true that the Law Society has prescribed a long list of books which must be read by the Law students, and upon which all candidates for admission to the Bar must pass an examination. It is equally true that the Senate has prescribed another list of books for the Law Department of the University, an examination upon which leads to a degree in Law. In the University no attempt whatever is made to give instruction in Law, while the poor attempt at instruction made under the auspices of the Law Society is wholly unworthy that body.

Our present empirical system of learning law may produce sharp lawyers, keen solicitors, and able counsel, but if it ever produces great lawyers, fitted to make judges and statesmen, it is because the individuals have in them that which will not be suppressed, and not because their budding talent has in any measure been nurtured by the system.

It is not alone the lawyer who requires a knowledge of the law; every system of liberal education should include instruction in the principles of law, just as every such system should include instruction in physiology, but it is no more necessary to include the prac-