

THE VARSITY.

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XVII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, MARCH 10, 1898.

No. 19.

THE TOWER OF LOVE.

As the shadows were deepening at twilight's hour,
A maiden crept slowly and sadly alone
Up the cold dark steps of Varsity's tower;
And reached, at last, the gray platform stone.

Her tired head throbbed with grief and pain:
And she sobbed, as she leaned on the parapet-wall,
"O be still my heart, he will ne'er come again,
I have sent him from me, my life, my all!"

With a small sharp stone, which had been there for years,
She wrote the words of an old sweet song:
"Come to me, come to me!" and the blinding tears
Would not be repressed, for she'd loved him long.

* * * * *

The moonbeams were shedding their light, soft and clear,
O'er a student who gazed, from the tower above,
On the scenes of his college life—then so dear—
Ere he left them forever, an exile from love.

With a thrill of joy, as he turned to depart,
He spied the words on the rough stone wall:
Though rudely carved, they were balm to his heart;
And he hastened to answer his true love's call.

* * * * *

O tower of learning and greatness and fame!
Looking down from your airy heights above;
To those two glad hearts, your new sweet name
Will ever be, simply, Tower of Love.

"DETTA."

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE RESIDENCE.

The Residence question, as it has been called ever since most of us remember anything of life at Varsity, has received more than the usual amount of attention from the college public this year. This has largely been due to the announcement made by the Hon. Edward Blake in his Convocation address that it was probable that the Residence as we have known it so long, was soon to become a thing of the past.

It is proposed to convert the building to more purely academic purposes than the boarding and lodging of undergraduates. This is not to be done, however, because the University authorities believe that the sphere of their activities should be restricted to the training of the mind, but solely because the present more comprehensive venture has not been uniformly a financial success. It is claimed that the Residence building represents a certain portion of the endowment of University College, that the straitened means of that institution demand that the most be made of all available resources, that further accommodation is required by some departments, and that this building can be more profitably employed as lecture rooms, laboratories, etc., than as a Residence.

Let us at once admit that the present building did absorb a certain amount of our endowment, and, as a matter of fact, it cost about as much as the main entrance, of which we are all so justly proud, that the hard times demand that great care must be exercised in husbanding our resources, that new class rooms, etc., must be provided, but there is no evidence whatever to show that the building can be profitably turned to any other use than that which it now serves.

On the contrary, there is somewhere in existence, if I was not misinformed at the time it was made, a report of the University Architect, which states that the cost of remodelling the building would be greater than that of erecting a new one affording the same accommodation. The reasons given are, roughly, that the building throughout, not only the exterior, but also the partition walls, is most strongly built of brick, which is expensive to tear down when in perfect condition as this is, that the roof is entirely carried on these partition walls, and it would have to be removed in the reconstruction; that the ceilings are low, the building being in three floors instead of two as would be necessary, thus entailing the partial destruction of the exterior walls in order to get the windows right.

We find then that to remodel the building we would be obliged first to remove the roof; second, take out the partition walls, and these are not only between the five houses, but also between most of the forty two rooms; and third, rebuild the exterior walls. We can easily see how this would cost more than a new building. It must also be taken into consideration that as far as destroying the old building goes the work could not be done under contract, and everyone knows what day labor means in adding expense to a work. There would be a further absolute loss, which has not yet been taken into account, and that arises from the fact that the building is almost perfectly adapted to its present use, and that a structure of similar utility could not be secured save at great expense. The present dining hall, which might be made to accommodate a couple of hundred students, and the kitchen and pantries where the food for a thousand could be stored and prepared, would cost a large sum to replace. Does any one venture to hope that once destroyed they will ever be rebuilt?

It may then be assumed as proved that the building can not profitably be turned into class rooms. I propose to show that by enlarging the Residence so as to make room for 162 men, the institution can be made not only self-sustaining, but afford a handsome revenue, which might be applied to further extensions or to the relief of less fortunate investments of University funds.

The scheme for enlargement was outlined in an editorial in VARSITY by the writer in '92, but did not attract any attention at the time. The reason being, I have since been assured, that it was believed the plan would entail too great expense in carrying it out. Recent discussion has brought up the matter again however, and the following facts and figures, which seem to show the matter in a favorable light, have been prepared.

The profits are estimated upon a basis of an average rent of \$1 per week from each student and a charge for board of \$3 per week. The estimate of the cost of the