

The Varsity

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BY

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DECEMBER 7, 1892.

LITERARY SOCIETY.



THE meeting of the Lit. on Friday evening was not as well attended as usual. Perhaps it was the near approach of Christmas; perhaps it was the thought of term work and term exams—*vide* Empire—perhaps it was the result of previous efforts, but, at any rate, the audience was somewhat attenuated.

After the minutes had been read and the other etceteras gone through, the programme was reached. Mr. Knox was called on for a solo; but alas, he was the victim of circumstances, for his accompanist was not present. In grief-laden tones he narrated his woes, and promised that, if the Society would only give him a few minutes respite, Mr. Parker, his accompanist, would be present—or die in the attempt. The Society being in a gracious mood, assented.

Mr. Laschinger was now called upon to read, and he prefaced his remarks by a complaint that he had only been given an hour's warning. The Society said it was sorry; and so the reader proceeded to tell us about Mr. Spooopen-dyke swearing off from smoking. Several of the members paid an attention to the reading, which suggested that they were thinking of a New Year's resolve in the same direction. The business manager was one of these; but he changed his mind when he remembered that he might have to take out the tobacconist's ads. in trade.

Mr. Strath now wanted to return to another order of business; but the president objected.

Mr. Levy was called upon for an essay. Now arose a meek, pathetic voice from the rear of the hall, assuring the Society that sufficient time had not been given to prepare an essay worthy of being laid before the august critics of the Lit. Then there was a sound of retreating footsteps, and, when President De Lury asked if he was to understand that Mr. Levy was not prepared, there was an eloquent silence.

Mr. J. L. McDougall now wanted to return to order of business "I." In order to attain this goal it was necessary to climb over the president's ruling and appeal to the meeting. The meeting didn't know exactly why the return to order of business "I" was wanted, but it was anxious for a "scrap," and so it overruled the president's ruling. Mr. Strath now arose, looked around him anxiously, lest anyone should make a motion before he got a chance, and nominated Messrs. G. R. Anderson and H. A. Moore as a committee to see about the holiday rates. Mr. Strath wore now an air of triumph. Thanks to his tactical skill the pleasant task, which has been his in several bygone years, is his no longer. Mr. Anderson smiled a sad smile and resigned himself to the inevitable. Mr. McDougall now explained to the meeting, that in moving to order of business "I," there had been "method in his madness," and that he wanted a conversat. At the mention of the word "conversat," there was a general air of inquisitiveness pervading the room, as to what a conversat. is; it is so long since we have had one that it is almost a forgotten phantom now. Mr. McDougall proceeded in a clear and forcible speech to explain the benefits which would accrue from holding a conversat. When he was through we were informed that the general committee had this year established a *new precedent*, and that, while hitherto the initiative in reference to the conversat. had been taken by the Society, it had this year been taken by the General Committee. We were also informed that the sages who inhabit the College Council had, in their wisdom, decided that a conversat. was an impossibility. From an intimate acquaintance with the University student, they know that his sole object in desiring another conversat. is to have another fire. We then went back to the programme. Mr. Knox and Mr. Parker appeared and said their little piece so well that they had to give an *encore*.

And now the debate came on. Mr. Burns took the affirmative: his speech was keenly appreciated by the back benches, so much so that an unprecedented event occurred. *Ike made a joke*. Mr. Kilgour stepped forward for the negative: his speech contained some excellent points, which might have been more strongly enforced were it not for a pardonable nervousness; his manner, also, is none too animated. Mr. Reeve, who spoke second on the affirmative, manifested his usual fluency and choice diction, with an improvement in logic. During his speech many unnecessary interruptions took place. We don't know who caused them, but we would like to protest. Mr. Hughes, the second speaker on the negative, now made his maiden speech before the Lit.: in a desire to be too exact, he clung rather too closely to his manuscript, which was a mistake, for at times he showed that he could have done well without it. His manner was grateful. The President now took his part, and decided that the balance had swung in favor of the affirmative.

So ended the programme, and now for the business.

Mr. L. A. Moore appeared on behalf of the Banjo and Guitar Club and asked for \$25. The Society was in a charitable mood and immediately took off its top boot, produced its wallet, and counted out the required sum in five cent pieces. Mr. Parker now wanted to resort to a former order of business, whereupon Mr. McLean, from a desire to know what Mr. Parker wanted, seconded the motion. Mr. Parker now gave notice of motion of a grant of \$50 to the Glee Club. The Society looked anxiously at its wallet, examined its pocket for small change, and thought.